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*Muslims who believe in the Messiah
Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian*

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The Ahmadiyya GAZETTE USA

Scenes from the 67th Jalsa Salana, United States



Dr. Ahsan Zafar, Amir US, leading a silent prayer



Jalsa Salana Organizing Committee











Bill Ayres, Co-Founder of WhyHunger, Receives 2015 Ahmadiyya Muslim Humanitarian Award.


U.S. Congressman Mike Honda (D-CA) Receives 2015 Ahmadiyya Muslim Humanitarian Award





An educational and spiritual publication

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Acronyms for salutations used in this publication

sa: Ṣallallāhu 'Alaihi Wa Sallam
(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)
as: 'Alaihis-Salām
(may peace be upon him)
ra: Raḍiyallahu 'Anhu/'Anha
(may Allah be pleased with him/her)
rh: Raḥimahullāhu Ta'ālā
(may Allah shower His mercy on him)
aba: Ayyadahullāhu Ta'ālā Bi-Naṣrihil-'Azīz
(may Allah support him with His mighty help)

Verse numbers in the references from the Holy Qur'ān count Tasmiya at the beginning of a chapter as the first verse.

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Six Claims of the Holy Qur'ān

تَاللّٰهِ لَقَدْ اَرْسَلْنَآ اِلٰٓى اُمَمٍ مِّنْ قَبْلِكَ فَزَيَّنَ لَهُمُ الشَّيْطٰنُ اَعْمَالَهُمْ فَهُوَ وَلِيُّهُمُ الْيَوْمَ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ اَلِيْمٌ وَمَآ اَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتٰبَ اِلَّا لِتُبَيِّنَ لَهُمُ الَّذِى اخْتَلَفُوْا فِيْهِ ۙ وَهُدًى وَّرَحْمَةً لِّقَوْمٍ يُّؤْمِنُوْنَ (النحل آيت ٦٤،٦٥)

Commentary by Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ II (may Allah be pleased with him) [16:64, 65]

Allah, the Exalted, has presented here six claims in these verses.

First claim is that the messengers had been coming before the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Allah says: تَاللّٰهِ لَقَدْ اَرْسَلْنَآ اِلٰٓى اُمَمٍ مِّنْ قَبْلِكَ By Allah, We verily sent Messengers to the nations in the past.

The second claim is: فَزَيَّنَ لَهُمُ الشَّيْطٰنُ اَعْمَالَهُمْ Then there was decadence set on those nations. People created flaws in the teachings given to them and started assuming their sensual fantasies as rosy.

It is in the nature of man that he first commits an excess and then forges arguments in its favor. Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ I (may Allah be pleased with him) said: "I asked a thief whether he felt ashamed while committing thefts. In reply he said, 'In fact our's is a lawful earning. We access valuables putting ourselves in danger and we have to undergo extreme hardship and labor. Therefore, what we get is lawful for us.'" It appears that thieves also give valid reasons to justify their thefts.

Therefore, people commit excesses and then fabricate arguments in its favor. The matter of the fact is that God has put good virtues in human nature, which admonish him on bad deeds. As man cannot tolerate persistent guilt, he finds valid justifications for his deeds. God says: فَزَيَّنَ لَهُمُ الشَّيْطٰنُ اَعْمَالَهُمْ That Satan portrays their actions in a beautiful manner and when people are accustomed to bad deeds, they start assuming that what they did was right.

Third claim is that: فَهُوَ وَلِيُّهُمُ الْيَوْمَ That this trait is not yet over. All the nations are in the same state of mind even today. Till now the effect of this satanic action is there and it's curse is continuing. The distortion once created, can only be removed by God and no human being can do anything to eliminate it.

The fourth thing stated in Qur'ān is: وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ اَلِيْمٌ Due to this weakness they are in danger of falling into Hell. Therefore, it is the mercy of Allah which longs to help them.

The fifth item stated is:

وَمَا اَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتٰبَ اِلَّا لِتُبَيِّنَ لَهُمُ الَّذِى اخْتَلَفُوْا فِيْهِ

In such condition, it is necessary for God to open the door of mercy. When his people went astray, the old revealed books became affected, and then God again opened the door of His mercy [in the past]. Therefore, O Prophet! God sent down this scripture on you so that you may tell them the real teachings about which they differed and went hither and thither, and eliminate distortions.

The sixth thing mentioned is that this book not only eradicates the distortions of the old books but also has stated additional teachings in it. It describes not only the mistakes of the previous teachings and philosophies but also mentions principles which could possibly not come in their minds. These are of two kinds:

هُدًى وَّرَحْمَةً لِّقَوْمٍ يُّؤْمِنُوْنَ

One is the Guidance and the others are His Mercies.

The Guidance from Him means development of mental and intellectual behavior whereas the mercy means progress of practice embodiment and day to day comforts. It also means that in Qur'ān we find not only means of intellectual development but also practice aspects of daily routine. These are the matters for which all religions and entire philosophies endeavor to acquire. These instructions are very well documented in Qur'ān, that is, guidance as well as mercy. (Faḍa'il-ul-Qur'ān, Vol. 5, pp. 282-284)

Selected Sayings of the Holy Prophet

عَنْ عَائِشَةَ رَضِیَ اللّٰہُ عَنھا قَالَت: صَنَعَ رَسُوْلُ اللّٰہِ صَلَّی اللّٰہُ عَلَیْہِ وَسَلَّمَ اَمْرًا فَتَرَخَّصَ فِیْہِ فَبَلَغَ ذٰلِكَ نَاسًا مِنْ اَصْحَابِہٖ فَکَاَنَّھُمْ کَرِھُوْا وَتَنَزَّھُوْا عَنْہُ فَبَلَغَہٗ ذٰلِكَ فَقَامَ خَطِیْبًا فَقَالَ: مَا بَالُ رِجَالٍ بَلَغَھُمْ عَنِّیْ اَمْرٌ تَرَخَّصْتُ فِیْہِ فَکَرِھُوْہُ وَتَنَزَّھُوْا عَنْہُ فَوَاللّٰہِ لَاَنَا اَعْلَمُھُمْ بِاللّٰہِ وَاَشُدُّھُمْ لَہٗ خَشْیَۃً۔

)مسلم کتاب الفضائل باب علمہ صلی اللّٰہ علیہ وسلم باللّٰہ تعالیٰ(

A'isha (may Allah be pleased with her) relates: Once the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) took an exception on a matter. When his companions came to know about this, some of them disliked and deemed it beyond them and thought that the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) could because he was way innocent. When the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) came to know about this, he stood up for a speech. He said: O people! When I have taken leave and privilege on certain matter, then why do you dislike it and abstain from it? By God! I have greater understanding of Allah and greater apprehension than anyone else, that is, I would never have taken leave had there been any impertinence involved; indeed I had pleasure of Allah in that matter.

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عَنْ اَبِیْ ھُرَیْرَۃَ رَضِیَ اللّٰہُ عَنْہُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُوْلُ اللّٰہِ صَلَّی اللّٰہُ عَلَیْہِ وَسَلَّمَ لَقَدْ کَانَ فِیْمَا قَبْلَکُمْ مِّنَ الْاُمَمِ نَاسٌ مُحَدَّثُوْنَ فَاِنْ یَّكُ فِیْ اُمَّتِیْ اَحَد فَاِنَّہٗ عُمَرُ۔ قَالَ ابْنُ وَھَبٍ: مُحَدَّثُوْنَ: اَیْ مُلْھَمُوْنَ۔

)بخاری کتاب المناقب باب مناقب عمر(

Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) relates that the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: There were peoples in the previous nations who were bestowed with heavenly revelations (Muhaddath) [so will there be among my people]. Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) is one of them who shall receive revelations. Ibn Wahab said that "Muhaddath" means "Mulham," that is, one who receives revelations from God. (Bukhārī, Kitāb-ul-Manāqib Section. Manāqib 'Umar)

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عَنْ اَبِیْ ھُرَیْرَۃَ رَضِیَ اللّٰہُ عَنْہُ قَالَ: قَالَ النَّبِیُّ صَلَّی اللّٰہُ عَلَیْہِ وَسَلَّمَ لَقَدْ کَانَ فِیْمَنْ قَبْلَکُمْ مِنْ بَنِیْ اِسْرَآئِیْلَ رِجَالٌ یُکَلَّمُوْنَ مِنْ غَیْرِ اَنْ یَّکُوْنُوْا اَنْبِیَآءَ فَاِنْ یَّکُنْ مِنْ اُمَّتِیْ اَحَدٌ فَعُمَرُ۔

)بخاری کتاب المناقب باب مناقب عمر(

Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) relates that the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: There were such persons in the past nations who received revelations from God even though they were not prophets. Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) is one of them in among my people. (Bukhari Kitab-ul-Manaqib Section Manaqib Umar pp. 1521)

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From the Writings of the Promised Messiah
may peace be upon him

Three Ways of Recognizing Prophets

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) said:

"If there is any doubt about the truth of my claim and if one truly seeks the truth, it is easy to dispel these doubts, for the truth of every Prophet can be verified in the following three ways:

First, with the help of reason:

One should see whether or not human reason testifies that there is a need for his coming at that particular time and whether or not the prevailing human condition requires the presence of a reformer.

Second, prophecies of earlier Prophets:

One finds out if any earlier prophet had made a prophecy in support of this prophet, or in support of any prophet who would come at that particular time.

Third, Divine succor and support:

One should find out whether or not such a claimant enjoys heavenly support.

These are the three hallmarks or indicators that form the accepted criteria for identifying a true appointee of God. My friends! God has been so merciful to you and has caused all the three signs to synchronize as testimony to my truth. Now it is for you to accept or to reject. Upon rational consideration, you will find human reason crying that the Muslims in this age are in need of a heavenly reformer. Their condition is dreadful both internally and externally and they seem to be standing on the brink of a deep abyss, or about to be hit by a fierce storm. Looking into the past prophecies, you will find that Prophet Danial (may peace be upon him) too prophesied about me and about the time of my coming. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) also foretold that the Promised Messiah would be born in this very Umma. Anyone who does not know this should study Sahih Bukhari and Sahih Muslim where he will find the prophecy that a Mujaddid [Reformer] would appear at the turn of each century. If one seeks evidence of Divine succor in my support, then let it be remembered that thousands of signs have already appeared for me.

Apart from these, this prophecy was also recorded in Barāhīn-e-Ahmadiyya some twenty-four years ago when no one had yet pledged allegiance at my hand and no one travelled to see me. The prophecy was:

يَاتِيكَ مِن كُلِّ فَجٍّ عَمِيق- يَاتُونَ مِن كُلِّ فَجٍّ عَمِيق

Meaning, the time is fast coming when financial assistance shall reach you from all sides and thousands of people shall come to visit you. The prophecy was:

وَلا تُصَعِّر لِخَلقِ اللهِ وَلا تَسئَم مِنَ النَّاس

This means that so many people will come to you that you will be surprised by their numbers but you must neither be impolite to them nor weary of them."

(Rūḥānī Khazā'in, Lecture Sialkot, Vol. 20, pp. 241-242)

Weekly Guidance from Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V

May Allah be his Helper

Summaries of Friday Sermons received from
Ch. Hameedullah, Wakīl A'lā, Taḥrīk Jadīd Anjuman Aḥmadiyya, Pakistan

Friday Sermon 7 August, 2015 at the Baitul Futūh Mosque, Morden, London

Companions of the Promised Messiah

(may peace be upon him)

The pious nature of the Companions, their cognition of the truth, their zeal for making sacrifices, and other instances highlighting their devotion, sincerity and faith. Every Aḥmadī should hasten to the prayers and be ever mindful of observing them.

It is human nature to want to belong to someone, and the best way is to belong to God.

On 7th August 2015, Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V (may Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūh mosque, London. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that when we read about the Companions of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) we observe the piety of their nature, their passion for recognizing the truth, their zeal for sacrificing their self and possessions, and their expressions of love and devotion to the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him), which is expressed by each of them according to their own temperament and understanding. Those who were close to these Companions also learnt various lessons by observing their morals and character. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau'ūd (may Allah be pleased with him) was himself a Companion of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) and had personal relationship with the Companions whom he has mentioned. Therefore, when he speaks about them or derives conclusions regarding them, his words have a profound effect on one's heart. Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau'ūd (may Allah be pleased with him) has cited some faith-inspiring episodes from the lives of the Companions' that highlight their love and complete devotion to the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him). Among them was a narrative regarding the Bai'at of Ḥaḍrat Maulawī Burhanuddin Sahib of Jhelum, which also served to dispel the notion that Prophets and Saints are like common people and that there is nothing to distinguish them from the commonality of humankind. The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says that the person of a Prophet is like rain, he is highly enlightened, and comprises many excellences. Therefore, it is unjust to think that they are ordinary human beings.

Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau'ūd (may Allah be pleased with him) also mentioned an incident highlighting the sincerity and zeal for making financial sacrifices shown by Seth Abdur Rahman Sahib of Madras. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) also explained the quote where Tuesday has been described as an ill-omened day. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that there is no truth to this, for God has blessed all the days and expressed His attributes through all of them. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) also cited an incident regarding the extreme humility shown by Hafiz Muhammad Sahib of Peshawar, and said that a believer should not undervalue himself. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that while God has declared clothes to be a source of beauty, but in the west we see nudity everywhere and it is considered fashionable. Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau'ūd (may Allah be pleased with him) says that the opinion of a European artist regarding the exposure of bodies holds much weight. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that even men wear strange clothes which make them undignified and expose their ugliness. These are the reasons why the society as a whole is increasingly falling prey to immorality. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said we should remember that beauty lies not in nudity or in the physical body but elsewhere. God has commanded man to wear clothes so that his ugliness may be covered and his beauty may be enhanced, but people are turning away from this commandment. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that it is in the nature of man that he hates to be alone and wants to associate with others. The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says that there is no

doubt if we have faith in God and can find Him, then we can categorically say that we do not need anything other than Him. It is in man's nature that he either wants to possess someone or to belong to someone, and the best way is to become God's and to strive for this. Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau'ūd (may Allah be pleased with him) also gave the example of a Companion of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) by the name of Muhammad Yar who loved the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) to distraction, so much so that sometimes when the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) inadvertently moved his hand while speaking, Muhammad Yar Sahib took to it to mean that the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) was calling him, and so he would come and sit by the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) . Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that we claim to love Allāh, but despite His clear call for us to come to prayer and to success, we do not hasten towards prayers or attend the Jumma regularly. Every Aḥmadī should try to heed the call from God and attend the prayer in mosques with the zeal of a lover. May Allāh enable us to safeguard our prayer and to do full justice to our worship *Āmīn?*

Friday Sermon 14 August, 2015 at the Baitul Futūh Mosque, Morden, London

Hospitality and our responsibilities

The importance of hospitality in the context of Jalsa Salāna UK 2015 and exhortation regarding the responsibilities of the volunteers

The Holy Prophet said, "Whoever believes in God and the last day should honor his guests."

Volunteers should raise their character and their morals to higher standards and their example should be such as to remind the guests that they are attending a religious gathering.

On 14th August 2015, Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V (may Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at the Baitul Futūh Mosque, Morden, London. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said: By the grace of Allāh, Jalsa Salāna UK starts from next Friday. Volunteers and workers are working tirelessly and selflessly in preparation for the Jalsa, and these include men and women, young and old. This extraordinary zeal for serving the guests of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) is such as cannot be witnessed anywhere other than in the Jamā'at of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him). As is customary, Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) gave some instructions to the workers regarding hospitality. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that Allāh teaches us the importance of hospitality by relating the episode of Ḥaḍrat Ibrahim and his guests. The first thing Ḥaḍrat Ibrahim did after greeting his guests with salutations of peace was to have food prepared for them. The Qur'ān also speaks of his concern that that his people should not harm them. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that any harm that comes to the guest is a source of embarrassment for the host. This is why Islām has stressed that guests should be honored. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that in the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) we see the quality of hospitality at its highest and he also taught his Companions the ways of hospitality. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) cited various episodes that highlight the high examples of hospitality shown by the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and the Companions. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said that whoever believes in Allāh and in the last day should honor his guests. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that it is among the duties of those who entertain guests at their homes that at night instead of wasting time in frivolous talk they should spend most of the time in remembering Allāh and His Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that these days in addition to Ahmadīs there are also many non-Aḥmadī guests who come to attend the Jalsa. Therefore the volunteers in every accommodation should show such examples that the guests may realize that they have come to a religious gathering and not some worldly fair. They should also raise their character and morals to the highest standard. In their free time they should discuss religious matters; this will also have an impact on the guests. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that the Companions of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) understood the importance of this. While they fulfilled their obligations with regard to hospitality they also did their best to fulfill the spiritual, religious and intellectual needs of their guests so that when they return home they can train others accordingly and are able to spread the message of Islām in their areas. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that the departments of Tarbiyyat and Da'wat Ilallāh are also a part of our institution, therefore it is the duty of the

volunteers to serve this spiritual food both to Ahmadīs and to non-Ahmadīs. Appropriate arrangements should be made for this as well. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) cited some faith-inspiring examples of the hospitality that the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) set for us and the teaching he gave us in this regard. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that under the Jalsa arrangements there is a general menu and then separate food is also prepared for people who come from certain countries or those who are unwell, and there is no harm in this. But these special guests also be served the general menu so that they know what the other participants of the Jalsa are eating. Some of them even love to eat that food. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that the department of hospitality is a very important department of the Jalsa. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) cited the various responsibilities of this department and said that if it works smoothly all other arrangement will run smoothly as well. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) prayed that may Allāh enable all the workers to fulfill their duties in an amicable manner and may the Jalsa be blessed in every aspect. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said: Today is the 14th of August which is celebrated as the independence day of Pakistan. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) appealed to all Pakistani Ahmadīs to pray for the true independence of their country, for its security and integrity, and for freedom from tyranny. At the end of the sermon Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) informed the Jamā'at of the sad demise of Kamal Aftab Sahib of Huddersfield, UK and Muhammad Naeem Awan Sahib of Germany and his son. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) led the funeral prayer in absentia of the deceased after the Friday prayers.

Friday Sermon 21 August, 2015 at the Hadiqatul Mahdi, Alton, UK

Importance of Friday Congregational Prayer and some advices about Jalsa Salāna UK

The start of Jalsa Salāna UK, the importance of Jumu'a, the objectives of the Jalsa, and some guidelines on administrative matters

This Jalsa is not like a worldly fair. During these days our attention should be focused on listening to Divine words.

Along with fostering love for Allāh and the Holy Prophet, the delegates of the Jalsa should also foster mutual love and brotherhood.

On 21st August 2015, Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V (may Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at Hadiqatul Mahdi, Alton, UK. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said: The Jalsa Salāna will begin formally after the Jumu'a prayer today. The Jumu'a, however, has its own importance and in view of this when you pray on this day you should also pray for the success of the Jalsa. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that the main objective of the Jalsa, which has also been described as the objective of the Bai'at, is that the love of Allāh and the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) should reign over our hearts. But this will only come about if we offer Durood for the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) from the bottom of our hearts and try to transform ourselves accordingly. We should therefore spend our time offering Durood and remembering Allāh. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that in the life of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) we see great examples of fulfilling one's obligations towards God's creatures. Allāh Himself has described the believers as people who love and are kind to one another, and this too is demonstrated by the example of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Such was his love for the believers that he could not bear that they should undergo any suffering. Even the slightest harm that came to the believers made him extremely anxious. This is the example that has been set before us that we should become restless upon seeing other people's suffering, and this can only come about if there is a relationship of love and compassion between us. In fact, one of the aims of the Jalsa as described by the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) is that it will help to foster love and brotherhood among the participants. So while the participants should grow in their love for Allāh and the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), they should also foster mutual love and brotherhood and increase their religious knowledge.

After reading out some of the objectives of the Jalsa as laid down by the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him), Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that each of us should be mindful of that we have to fulfill

the objectives of the Jalsa. At another place the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) has said that you must not take this Jalsa like a worldly fair and instead our focus should be on divine matters. We should not waste our time in gossip and idle talk or walking about in the markets and should utilize our free time for the remembrance of Allāh. We should also listen to the Jalsa programs with the intention that we shall try to practice what we learn and utilize it to strengthen our faith. All the participants of the Jalsa should bear these objectives in mind and try to make the best use of it. May Allāh enable you to do so. Speaking of some administrative matters related to the Jalsa, Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that participants should cooperate fully with the administration and follow the guidelines. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said the management concerned with serving food should bear in mind that some people, because of illness or some other contingency, might require food at odd hours, therefore some arrangement should always be there to cater for such people. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that mothers with small kids should bring something with them to feed their children and should go to one side to feed them. Likewise participants should cooperate fully with the traffic management and park their vehicles where they are instructed. Efforts have been made to improve the scanning department, but still if participants have to wait for some time they should bear it calmly and cooperate with those on duty at the entrance. Likewise they should cooperate with the overall security. Every Aḥmadī should also be vigilant and keep an eye around them. May Allāh bless this Jalsa in every way. At the end of the sermon Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) spoke about the martyrdom of Ikramullah Khan Sahib of Taunsa Sharif (District Dera Ghazi Khan), Pakistan, and the sad demise of Chaudhry Muhammad Ali Sahib, Wakālat Tasnīf, Taḥrīk Jadīd Rabwah. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke about their devotion and services for the Jamā'at and led their funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayers.

Friday Sermon 28 August, 2015 at the Baitul Futūh Mosque, Morden, London

Blessings of Jalsa Salāna UK 2015

Gratitude to God for the success of Jalsa, acknowledgment of the services of the volunteers, media coverage of the Jalsa, and the feedback from the dignitaries

The essence of the Jalsa is that Jamā'at Ahmadiyya is the perfect example of peace and brotherhood for mankind.

The Jalsa on the whole was attended by Allāh's blessings. May Allāh enable all the participants to undergo a holy transformation.

On 28th August 2015, Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul Masīh V (May Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūh mosque, London. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: I am receiving letters and faxes from many countries congratulating me on the success of the Jalsa. This shows that many people watched the Jalsa through MTA and reaped its benefits. But we will only be able to truly benefit from it when we strive to adorn our lives with everything that we have seen and heard. And we should also be grateful to God that He has made a material innovation the means of our practical, intellectual and doctrinal progress. It fosters the faith of believers to see innovations like television, internet, newspapers and other publications serving the cause of their faith. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that Allāh enabled the volunteers to organize and manage the Jalsa in an excellent manner and to work together as one body. We are all thankful to these volunteers, be they men or women. May Allāh reward them all? Also on behalf of the volunteers I would like to thank the guests for their cooperation. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) cited the feedback given by the dignitaries who came from various countries and included politicians, ministers and other high officials. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that listening to their comments one becomes even more grateful to God. A dignitary from Uganda said that he was amazed by the excellent hospitality, security and discipline, and how so many people had volunteered their services for the Jalsa. He said that if he was to describe the Jalsa in a few words, he would say that Jamā'at Ahmadiyya is a great example for humankind of how to live in peace and love and brotherhood.

A dignitary from Nigeria said that the Khuddām were fulfilling their duties very diligently and with full obedience. The example of obedience to the Khalīfa that I have seen in Jamā'at Ahmadiyya is not to be experienced anywhere else. A dignitary from Congo Kinshasa said that in the Jalsa he saw the practical demonstration of the concept of true Islām that is taught by Jamā'at Ahmadiyya. The Speaker of Benin's National Assembly said that the first thing he noticed was the great love members of the Jamā'at have for their Khalīfa, and this is something he had not seen anywhere

else. He said that he had looked critically at the arrangements of the Jalsa and I saw that everything was well organized. A delegate from Serbia said that in attending the Jalsa and meeting different people he had seen practical manifestation of the motto "Love for all, hatred for none." A lady from Kazakhstan said that she has visited many places but only here did she learn true love and service for mankind. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that the news about the Jalsa was broadcast widely through the press media. Likewise, the message of the Jalsa reached millions of people through MTA, other TV channels, radio, social and print media, newspapers, interviews, etc. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) cited some instances of people's impressions of the Jalsa that was broadcast in some African countries. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that by the grace of Allāh the Jalsa served to introduce the Jamā'at on a very wide scale. Speaking about some of the shortcomings that were reported, Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) mentioned the shortage of chairs in the main marquee, the need for another big screen, the insufficient supply of water or toilet paper in the washrooms, the tendency of some guests to push forward others instead of waiting in line, and an instance where some guests showed inappropriate behavior towards those on duty. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) advised the Jamā'at on all these issues. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that overall the Jalsa was a source of numerous blessings. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) prayed that Allāh may enable everyone who attended the Jalsa or watched it on MTA to undergo a positive transformation Āmīn. At the end of the sermon Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) informed the Jamā'at of the sad demise of Farida Begum Sahiba, wife of Mirzā Rafiq Ahmad Sahib. She was the daughter-in-law of Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul Masīh II (may Allah be pleased with him). Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) led her funeral prayer in absentia after the Jumu'a prayer.

Friday Sermon 4 September, 2015 at the Baitul Futūh Mosque, Morden, London

Righteousness, Trust in Allah and Remembrance of Allah

The 'Langar Khana' of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) is one of the many glorious signs that serve to strengthen our faith.

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him)'s heart was filled with the zeal to spread the faith and he spent every moment of his life in this cause.

When God makes a promise or gives a glad tiding, He accordingly bestows certain qualities or causes certain transformation.

On 4th September 2015, Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul Masīh V (May Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūh mosque, London. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: If a worldly person is told that all the good things of the world can be attained through practicing true taqwa, or righteousness, he will not believe this. But one who truly follows the real teachings of Islām will comprehend this fact. Our Jamā'at, by the grace of Allāh, realizes this. Every day I receive letters from Ahmadīs requesting for prayers that they may be blessed with taqwa. Those who are granted taqwa are also granted worldly bounties, and although they do sometimes have to go through temporary periods of scarcity or hardship, things get better ultimately. The period of hardship teaches contentedness, and so when they are blessed they show gratitude, and thus is born in the believers the desire to make sacrifices. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that we find examples of this in the life of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him). Every endeavor has a beginning and an end. There was a time when the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) was served with leftovers, and if he had a visitor he would give him his own food and go hungry. But there came a time during his lifetime when hundreds of people were fed at his Langar Khana (dining room). Today the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him)'s langar is functioning in Qādiān, Rabwah, London and many other places. On the occasion of Jalsa and other gatherings hospitality is offered to the participants at a very large scale. These langars will continue to spread and grow. They are indeed one of the many great signs of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) that serve to strengthen our faith. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that whenever Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau'ūd spoke about some aspect of the life of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him), he would also point out certain aspects that would serve for the Jamā'at's spiritual

training. He said that the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him)'s manner of eating chapatti was that he would take a piece of it, break it into tiny bits, carefully select some bits, immerse them in the curry, and then eat. The Holy Qur'ān says that everything praises God. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) taught us to say Bismillah before starting a meal and Alhamdulillah after finishing the meal and to glorify Allāh when wearing clothes. This means that by his actions a believer attests to the fact that these objects eulogize God. And this is what is meant by everything eulogizing God. The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) had a great zeal for serving the faith and he wished that the time spent on attending to natural needs could also be spent on that task. This is why he would repeat Subhanalah when eating because God has created this need for which we have to eat. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) said that Arabic is the mother of all tongues and it possesses in itself the proof of this. Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau'ūd says that when Allāh promised to the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) that He would safeguard the Holy Qur'ān, one aspect of this was that when its protection required the sword God provided the means for it to be so protected, and then when the teaching of the Holy Qur'ān was attacked Allāh produced such people who proved the truth of the Holy Qur'ān and of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) on the basis of historical records. When God makes a promise, He also provides the attributes accordingly. For instance if someone invites a guest, he will serve him with food, but if he is making a jest then he will merely put empty vessels before him. But God does not jest, it is only Satan that does. Hence when God makes a promise to someone, He also brings about a change to that effect. For instance, in this age God taught the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) the truths of the Holy Qur'ān and also proved with His practical manifestations that he had indeed been appointed to provide guidance in this age. God's practical manifestations have likewise vindicated the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him)'s prophecy regarding Khilāfat. At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) informed the Jamā'at of the sad demise of Ḥaḍrat Sahibzadi Amatul Bari Sahiba and announced that he would lead her funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayers. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) read out a portion of the Khutba of her Nikah delivered by Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau'ūd in which he prophesied that she would live to see her distant progeny. This meant that she would have a large progeny who would be proud to be related to her; otherwise merely having a large progeny isn't something extraordinary. Upon her husband's demise she started a scholarship in his name. In addition to her other services for the Jamā'at, she also served as Secretary General of Lajna, Lahore. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said: The coat I wore on the occasion of the International Bai'at this year belonged to the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him). It had been handed down to Sahibzada Mirzā Sharif Ahmad Sahib and then to her, and then she gave it to me. She had great regard and reverence for Khilāfat.

Friday Sermon 11 September, 2015 at the Baitul Futūh Mosque, Morden, London

Faith and Islam

The world is gathering under the flag of peace having seen, through Ahmadiyyat, the real and beautiful face of Islām. Jamā'at Ahmadiyya is spreading the teaching of peace and harmony the world over and is working zealously to this end.

Each Aḥmadī ought to make himself a model of Islāmic teachings so that he can adequately fulfill his obligations.

On 11th September 2015, Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul Masīh V (may Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūh mosque, London. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said: The inner beauty of a person who claims to be a believer will only become manifest when he is firm in his faith and has knowledge of Islām. Faith means to surrender oneself completely to God and to abide by His injunctions and religion means that while abiding by His injunctions we should protect ourselves from evil deeds and work towards the welfare of others. If the people of the world realize this, then we will see such lasting peace being established in the world that it will become a virtual paradise. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that in this age Allāh sent the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) to establish the true faith and the true religion. Since we ascribe ourselves to him, it is our responsibility to support him in this mission by teaching people the true meaning of faith and by spreading peace and harmony. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that while the Jamā'at as an institution is carrying on this mission, it is also the responsibility of each Aḥmadī to model his life upon the teachings of Islām and thus fulfill his obligations. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke about the

causes of the conflicts in some countries, the failure to bring about peace, and the attempt by others to vilify Islām. On the other hand, however, there is Jamā'at Ahmadiyya that is working zealously across the world to spread Islamic teaching of love, kindness and peace. As a result, hundreds of thousands are gathering under the flag of peace in order to foster peace and harmony. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) cited several examples where others saw the true face of Islam through Ahmadiyyat and entered its fold. These examples included other people as well as those who pledged Bai'at and made a commitment to fulfill their obligations to God and His creatures.

A Christian cleric from Benin said, "This was a strange day in his life for I saw Muslims and Christians coming together in one place. There is no doubt that Jamā'at Ahmadiyya has brought us together and I salute Ahmadiyyat for this." Benin's

Minister for Transport said, "Jamā'at Ahmadiyya's service for humanity is not a secret. Jamā'at Ahmadiyya is at the forefront in striving to foster peace and brotherhood in Benin. I salute Jamā'at Ahmadiyya's efforts in the cause of peace and harmony." On the occasion of the inauguration of an Ahmadiyya mosque in Benin, a guest said, "Seeing this mosque I have realized that Jamā'at Ahmadiyya alone is truly serving Islām. Today it has become clear that Jamā'at Ahmadiyya is true and it enjoys the support of Allāh." Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that today it is through the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) that the true teaching of Islām is reaching the whole world. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) illustrated this with several examples. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said whenever the message of Islām reaches any part of the world through Jamā'at Ahmadiyya, pious people accept it. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) mentioned the fruits that these efforts have borne. A gentleman who had been a Christian clergyman for 33 years accepted Ahmadiyyat. Students from Jāmi'a Ahmadiyya Canada were sent to Guatemala for one month where they distributed a hundred thousand leaflets. In response to this one person said, "What you are doing is like trying to change autumn into spring. But spring will surely come." A man from Switzerland said, "I like your flyer very much. Ahmadiyya Jama't has two principles, 'Love for all, hatred for none', and, 'There is no compulsion in religion.'" If these two principles are followed, peace can surely be established in the earth." Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that this is the tree of Islām that was planted by God's own hand, and in this age the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) has been sent to irrigate it. God Himself will continue to safeguard it to the last day and it will forever remain alive and verdant. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said: In order to lead the world towards the path of God's pleasure and to spread peace and harmony, I have mentioned these few examples of how God opens people's hearts and causes others to speak up in our favor. Whether they live in Africa, in Europe, or in America, it has the same impact on them, because there is only one teaching of peace, and only Islām guarantees peace in the world. No matter what its opponents say or do, only Islām will bring peace and security to the world. May Allāh enable us to mould our character to the teachings of Islām and to become the means of its success and witness its progress Āmīn.

Friday Sermon 18 September, 2015 at the Baitul Futūh Mosque, Morden, London

Pearls of Wisdom

The Importance of the Companions' Accounts of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him)'s life and Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau'ūd's instructions in this regard

The accounts of the Companions are a source of guidance for future generations and helpful in solving many questions. Observance of Prayers is important for reformation. Ahmadīs all over the world should attend mosques regularly.

On 18th September 2015, Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul Masīh V (May Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūh mosque, London. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that Allāh has sent the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) in this age to rejuvenate Islam. The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) has revealed to us the essence of Islām and its true teaching in its most pristine form, and has taught us to shun false innovations and false norms. The example of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) serves as a beacon for us in this regard. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that we are fortunate that our elders and Companions of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) conveyed to us accounts of the life of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him). On one occasion Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau'ūd (may Allah be pleased with him) quoted some

of these accounts and illustrated how points that seemed apparently insignificant contained in them many guiding principles and fundamental teachings of Islām. Since many Companions of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) were still present at that time, Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau‘ūd (may Allah be pleased with him) urged them and their relatives to record these accounts for they would serve as guidance for future generations and solve questions that might arise.

Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau‘ūd (may Allah be pleased with him) says that the Jamā‘at should be repeatedly reminded to collect the accounts from the life of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) as related by his Companions. If someone has even a smallest recollection of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) and he does not share it with others, he is being unjust to the community. There is no doubt that some of these accounts seem trivial and insignificant, but they can be of great consequence on account of the conclusions that can be drawn from them. The world has and will continue to benefit from the recorded account of the Holy Prophet's life. Likewise the world will benefit from the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him)'s accounts, and so it is our duty to collect them.

Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau‘ūd (may Allah be pleased with him) says that today we might not realize the significance of these matters, but when Ahmadiyya tasawwuf, Ahmadiyya Jurisprudence, and Ahmadiyya Philosophy come into being, these seemingly minor accounts will become important references. Great philosophers, when they read these accounts, will leap with joy and pray that God may reward those who reported these matters and thus solved complex questions.

Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau‘ūd (may Allah be pleased with him) says that even if you know of something, no matter how minor, with regard to the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) , you should relate it because important inferences will be drawn from it later on. Anyone who has been blessed with an occasion to behold the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) or listen to his discourse, regardless of whether it something small or great, should write it down and bring into record. For instance, if someone remembers how the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) used to dress they should write it down and send it to be recorded. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that after this the Companions started to write and record their accounts of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) which have been collected in the form of a register. Some of these I have related in my sermons. The process of their collection is on-going and they will at some point be published in the form of a book. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) also related some instructive and faith-inspiring episodes related by Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau‘ūd (may Allah be pleased with him). Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that every account of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) contains intellectual aspects that are essential for our practical training, and they also shed light on verses of the Holy Qur'ān and Hadīth. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that right from the beginning the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) had a great zeal and a passion for the progress of Islām. He desired that people should reform themselves, and the most important aspect of this reform is to worship Allāh and to attend the daily Prayers. We should bear in mind the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him)'s desire that prayers should be offered in congregation and that our mosques should be full of worshippers. Today by the grace of Allāh mosques are being built everywhere, but sometimes I receive reports that they are not full of worshippers as they should be. Ahmadīs in Pakistan, India and other countries should also strive in this regard. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) also answered the objection that is sometimes raised with regard to the indoor games or other functions that are arranged in the halls adjoining the mosques. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that there is no harm in holding such events. If there are young missionaries who bring together young Ahmadīs for games, it definitely has the benefit of drawing those youngsters to the mosque. This is an unjustified objection and it is evident from the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him)'s own example that there is no harm in it. At the end of the Sermon, Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) informed the Jamā‘at of the sad demise of Al-Haj Yaqub of Ghana and Fazal Ilahi Bashir Sahib. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) led their funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayers.

Friday Sermon 25 September, 2015 at the Baitul Fazal Mosque, London

Being Steadfast in Worship of Allah

We can experience the true zeal for worship only when we close all other doors and submit before God.

It is only through God's grace that one is able to perform righteous deeds and to experience the spiritual pleasure during worship.

We should always offer Istighfar to be saved from the onslaughts of Satan and to be protected against the poison that destroys man.

On 25th September 2015, Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul–Masīh V (May Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Fazal Mosque, London. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said: Some people ask how they can acquire a true zeal for worship, because despite their efforts they are unable to experience this condition. Such people should remember that our duty is to keep trying and to persevere. If we remain firm in the belief that we receive everything from God, it is then that we experience the state that draws us closer to Allāh and increases our zeal for worship and enables us to draw pleasure out of it.

Once someone asked the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him), "How can we acquire zeal for worship?" The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) replied that we cannot on our own acquire the zeal for good deeds and for worship; it is only acquired through God's grace and by God-given ability. It is essential, therefore, that we should never grow weary and should always keep praying to God that He may grant us the ability. We should never tire and should keep praying consistently. When we do so, God, by His grace, at last creates the conditions whereby we can acquire the zeal and desire for worship. In other words, we acquire a longing for worship and experience pleasure and sweetness in its performance.

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) also says some people think that we do not need to strive for these things and that we can acquire nearness to God and zeal for worship merely by being touched by someone's breath. This cannot be for this is not God's practice or His wont. Anyone who tests God in this way in fact ridicules Him and is consequently cast away from Him and destroyed. Remember that the heart is in the hands of God, without His grace one becomes faithless. Hence, it is important to always keep praying and seeking God's help so that He might keep us on the right path. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that when a person becomes oblivious to God, he becomes a Satan. The moment one become oblivious of God, or forsakes Him, or forgets Him, he will be attacked by Satan and will become himself a Satan. It is therefore important to keep offering Istighfar so that we are saved from the poisons and passions that can destroy us. We should offer Istighfar so that we are saved from the poison that brings us closer to Satan and destroys us. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that it is essential to persevere and to have firm faith that there is nothing other than God. When we turn to God having closed all other doors, it is then that we acquire the state whereby we experience the true zeal for worship. We have to submit to God and seek His help constantly. Since Satan is ever ready to attack us, God says we have to keep offering Istighfar in order to attain the zeal for worship. Istighfar is also essential for safeguarding against satanic onslaughts. When we chase Satan away through Istighfar, we come under God's protection. We then acquire a longing for prayer and for Istighfar and we pray that we might find newer ways of attaining nearness to God. When we attain this stage, God then showers us with His grace. May Allāh enable us to become His true servants, to perform good deeds and to persevere upon them Amīn. Please convey these guidelines given by Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) to members of your Jamā'at.

Friday Sermon 2 October, 2015 at the Baitul Futūh Mosque, Morden, London

The Essence of Trials and Tribulations

Exhortation to observe patience on the loss at Baitul Futūh, and a pledge to rebuild it even more beautiful than before.

Those who show patience in the face of trials and tribulations are deserving of Divine reward.

Pray and offer Istighfar. The management should take note of its shortcomings. Because of this incident the Jamā'at's introduction has reached a wide population.

On 2nd October 2015, Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V (May Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūh Mosque, London. After reciting verses 156 and 157 of Sūrah al-Baqarah, which are translated as follows:

"And We will try you with something of fear and hunger, and loss of wealth and lives, and fruits; but give glad tidings to the patient, who, when a misfortune overtakes them, say, 'Surely, to Allah we belong and to Him shall we return.' " (2:156-157) Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that these verses speak of the qualities of the believers that they manifest in the face of any kind of trial or tribulation or loss. Whenever believers suffer a loss, whether it is

personal or communal, they come out of it successful and winning God's pleasure. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) cited some writings of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) and said: Always remember that when trials and tribulations befall God's chosen ones and their followers, they are only meant as a trial after which God promised to reward them. But when such tribulations come upon the enemies of God's chosen ones, they come as their doom and destroy them. Those who persevere in the face of hardships are entitled to immeasurable Divine rewards. While we should to a degree express grief at such tribulations, at the same time it is important to strive with a greater zeal to progress even further. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that only those who show patience know the true meaning of prayer. A believer ought to be resigned to God's will no matter what the circumstances and should never complain. This is the true meaning of sabr, or patience.

Speaking of taubah, the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says that seeking forgiveness for our shortcomings is essential for our success and for emerging triumphant out of trials and tribulations. Along with good deeds, believers should also be mindful of taubah, which means that upon every hardship and difficulty we should turn to God, confess our shortcomings and strive to continue our good deeds. Believers are never permanently beset by tribulations; the tribulations come and go. Therefore, seek Allāh's blessings through patience, prayer and good deeds, and when you face trials and hardship, say انا لله وانا اليه راجعون 'Surely, to Allah we belong and to Him shall we return'). This means that since we belong to Allāh, He will never destroy us, and that if some tribulation has come upon us it may be that Allāh wishes to reward us more than before. And then we submit before God and pray that we may not be a hurdle to the greater rewards that He has promised in the future. We say that we submit before You and seek those rewards, and we are ever in need of Your grace. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that our opponents cannot harm us if we have an abiding relationship with God. Recently there was a fire in two halls of Baitul Futūh which caused a lot of damage. Our opponents rejoiced over this while many others expressed sympathy. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that the way this news was covered by the media served as a mean of introducing the Jamā'at on a wide scale. Although we felt sorrow over this incident, and we showed patience and recited انا لله وانا اليه راجعون God caused people to stand by the Jamā'at in this time of trial and thus showed the world that He is with us. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that whatever the cause of the fire, this incident points to some failure on the part of the workers or the management at Baitul Futūh. They need to seek Allāh's forgiveness. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that though we feel sorrow for our loss, we do not let it overwhelm us. Today Allāh has blessed the Jamā'at with abundant provisions and, Insha'Allah, this loss will be rectified in a befitting manner. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that regardless of the cause, it is now upon us to bring the building back to its beautiful form. For the time being I do not need to appeal to the Jamā'at for financial support in this regard, but many people have started sending in donations on their own. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) spoke in particular about financial sacrifices being made by children. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke about the damage to the two halls and the areas that remained safe from the fire. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that, by the grace of Allāh, there were no casualties and that one person was miraculously saved from the fire. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) exhorted the Jamā'at to pray and pointed out some prayers to offer in particular. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said we need to offer a great deal of Istighfar. May Allāh enable us to fulfill our responsibilities adequately. At the end of the sermon Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) informed the Jamā'at of the sad demise of Chaudhry Mahmood Ahmad Mubashir, a derwaish of Qādiān; and of Khalid Saleem Abbas Sahib of Syria and another Aḥmadī brother from Syria. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) led their funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayers.

Sharḥ-ul-Qasīdah in English

Sharḥ-ul-Qasīdah, the translation and explanation of the Qasidah Yā 'Ainillāhi Wal-Irafānī, by the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, is now available in English to purchase at amibookstoore.us.

Message from Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ (may Allah be his Helper) For the US Jalsa Salāna

وَاجْعَلْ لِّيْ مِنْ لَّدُنْكَ سُلْطٰنًا نَّصِيْرًا
اِنَّا فَتَحْنَا لَكَ فَتْحًا مُّبِيْنًا
وَلَقَدْ نَصَرَكُمُ اللّٰهُ بِبَدْرٍ وَّاَنْتُمْ اَذِلَّةٌ

MIRZA MASROOR AHMAD
HEAD OF THE AHMADIYYA COMMUNITY
IN ISLAM

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
نَحْمَدُهٗ وَ نُصَلِّی عَلٰی رَسُوْلِهِ الْکَرِیْم
وعلیٰ عبدہِ المسیح الموعود
خدا کے فضل اور رحم کے ساتھ
ھوالنّاصـــر

Dear Members of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at, USA

Assalamo Alaikum wa rahmatullah wa barakatuhu!

I am very pleased that you are holding your national Jalsa Salāna on August 14th, 15th & 16th 2015. It is my prayer may Allah bless your Jalsa with great success and may all the participants gain immense spiritual benefit and countless blessings from this unique religious Gathering.

It is particularly important that you listen to my words and heed what I say, and endeavour to establish a close relationship with Khalīfatul Masīḥ. I urge you to follow my Friday sermons and my addresses at various events. This will enable you to strengthen your attachment and loyalty to the blessed institution of Khilafat. You should also teach your children about the special blessings of Khilafat and encourage them to remain in contact with, and be continually devoted to the Khalīfa of the time.

Today, the task of revival of Islam can only be performed by adhering to the system of Khilafat. Therefore, you should always strive to uphold this noble institution and ensure that you and your future generations always remain within the blessed guidance and shelter of Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya.

I also advise you to develop a constant link with MTA and watch it often. Along with my Friday sermons, it offers a wide range of good programmes for the benefit of young and old, to help increase our understanding and enhance our knowledge of the beauties of Islam and the truth of Ahmadiyyat.

There are some recommendations of your Shūra which have been approved and are aimed at addressing personal spiritual weaknesses and self-reformation. It is essential that you commit yourselves to implementing these recommendations fully. Keep in mind that there is no benefit in passing such proposals unless each member of the Jamā'at makes it incumbent on himself or herself to abide by the points of guidance contained therein.

May Allah bless your Jalsa Salāna with great success and enable all of you to increase in *Taqwa* (righteousness) and progress spiritually.

May Allah bless you all.

Wassalam

Yours sincerely

Mirza Masroor Ahmad
KHALĪFATUL MASĪḤ V

A brief Report on Jalsa Salāna USA 2015

Compiled by Mahmud Ahmad Nagi, Columbus OH

The Jalsa Salāna of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya, USA was held on 14 August to 16 August 2015 in Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Two big halls of the complex were earmarked for gents and ladies separately. More than eight thousand Ahmadis including guests participated in this sacred gathering this year. Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar, Amir Jamā'at USA hoisted flag of Ahmadiyyat whereas National and Pennsylvania State flags were hoisted by Missionary In-charge Maulana Naseem Mahdi and Masood Malik respectively.

An exhibition was arranged as usual which presented historical pictures of Khualfa and different special events of the Jamā'at. A bookstall was arranged which displayed the latest published books of the Jamā'at Ahmadiyya International for sale and viewing.

First Day of Jalsa

Dr Ahsanullah Zafar, Amir USA Jamā'ats, presided over the first session of Jalsa Salāna USA. In his inaugural speech he stressed the need of benefitting from the proceedings of the Jalsa for which the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) had prayed exclusively. He also read a message from Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (may Allah support him with His mighty help) which appears in this issue.

The first speech of the Jalsa was on "Al-Qayyum: the Sustainer of the Living" by Missionary Maulana Azhar Hanif. He explained to the audience different verses of Qur'ān to complement this attribute of God. Maulana Shamshad Ahmad Nasir delivered speech on "Living by Our Creed: to love God from Heart and Soul." The Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) taught us more than two hundred prayers which revolve around different attributes of God Almighty. These prayers engulf the whole mankind. Dr Faheem Younas Qureshi Sadr Majlis Anṣārullah spoke on the topic of "The Divine Signs of a True Khilafat."

Second Day of Jalsa

In the first session of the second day, there were five speeches in all. The following topics were on education of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya in general and youth of the Jamā'at in particular.

Latinos in the Americas: Reclaiming an Islamic Heritage by Waseem Sayed

The Maze of Youthful Life-Charting a Spiritual Course by Maulana Faran Rabbani

Mate Selection: Finding Eve in the Garden of Islam by Junayd Lateef

A prophecy Fulfilled: the Return of the Days of Lot by Bilal Rana

Prophet Luqman's Message: Seven Principles for Success by Mansoor Qureshi

In the second session of the day, more than 350 non-Ahmadi guests from other religions and organizations were specially invited. Some of them delivered short speeches. The governor of the state Mr. Hon Tom Wolf stayed for more than two hours and delivered a keynote speech. He was shown different stalls and exhibition of the Jamā'at. The other dignitaries included Mr. Bill Ayers and Mr. Brian Bachman (Director of International Religious Freedom). Mr. Amjad Mahmood Khan gave a discourse on "Religion, Freedom and Peace." His Excellency Tiena Coulibaly, Ambassador of Mali to USA also spoke on that occasion. Almost all guests spoke highly about Jamā'at's slogan "Love for All Hatred for None."

Mr. Bill Ayres, co-founder, WHY hunger Organization and US Congressman Mike Honda were honored with Ahmadiyya Humanitarian Awards respectively.

Third Day of Jalsa

The third day started with recitation from Holy Qur'ān and was chaired by Respected Amir USA. On this occasion, 'Alam-e-In'ami of Atfal-ul-Ahmadiyya, Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya and Anṣārullah were

presented to each. The students who excelled in academic activities were awarded medals and prizes.

First speech of this session was delivered by Brother Nasirullah Ahmad of Milwaukee on "Love for Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him): the Gateway to Divine Love." The second and third speeches were by Maulana Naseem Mahdi and Sahibzada Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad on topics of "Defending the Honor of Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in America" and "Zikr-e-Habib: the Citadel of Divine Love in this age," respectively.

In his concluding remarks, Dr Ahsanullah Zafar, Amir Jamā'at USA, focused his attention on special prayers prescribed by Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (may Allah support him with His mighty help). He stressed the need to cement the strong bonded relationship between all Ahmadis. He mentioned specifically about workers who devoted their time and energy for the Jalsa. In the end, he led silent prayers ending the three-day proceedings of Jalsa Salāna, USA.

Ladies' Jalsa

Ladies of the Jamā'at held two separate sessions on the second day of the Jalsa. Six speeches on the following topics were delivered.

The Merciful God: Al Raheem by Roohul Amin Rehman

Paradise at Your Feet by Aziza Rahman

Finding Peace through Simplicity by Sadia Ahmad (in Urdu) and Saadia Ahmad (in English)

Religious Values: Do They Have a Place in Today's World? By Maleeha Ahmad

Islam-i-Ahmadiyyat: My Choice by Samantha Kessenich

Sisterhood: Beyond Boundaries by Saliha Malik, Sadr Lajna USA

Special Programs

There were following special programs during and after the Jalsa breaks.

Waqifeen-i-Nau program was held where kids were given The Holy Qur'ān and special prizes.

A function of Āmīn was held for those kids who completed first reading of The Holy Qur'ān.

A Rishta Nāṭa session was arranged by Dr Farooq Padder.

National Calendar of Activities 2015

December 17 Thursday ....Voluntary Fast ....Jamā'at .... National

December 19-20 Fri-Sun ....West Coast Jalsa Salāna

December 26-27 Sat-Sun ....Midwest Tarbiyati Ijtimā ....Jamā'at .... Midwest

December 31 Thu ....Aṭfāl Sleepover ....Aṭfāl .... Regional/Local

Contributing to the Aḥmadiyya Gazette

Please type and send a soft copy of your English or Urdu contribution through e-mail to publications@ahmadiyya.us.

Please provide your name and phone number on the contribution.

Please indicate in the email if you want to see the edited version before its publication.

Please provide references for quotes from the Holy Qur'ān, Ḥadīth, Malfūzāt, any quotations and other sources.

A Prophecy Fulfilled: Return of the Days of Lot

Speech by Bilal Rana, Sadr Khuddamul-Ahmadiyya USA, at 2015 US Jalsa Salāna

God Almighty states in The Holy Qur'ān:

> And We have pointed out to him the two highways of good and evil. But he attempted not the ascent courageously (90 [Al-Balad] : 11-12).

Mountains are one of the most powerful landscapes on earth. They've inspired painters and poets, challenged mountain climbers, and are a refuge for prophets.

Mountains look permanent and peaceful, but they're changing all the time. Sometimes, not so peacefully. Beneath us are forces that can rip a mountain apart.

There were an ancient people, similar to ours today, who lived in the shadow of a large mountain.

SPIRITUAL ASCENT

In his commentary on these verses Ḥaḍrat Muṣliḥ Mau'ūd (may Allah be pleased with him) explained man is given a choice. There are two paths — one of ease and apathy to our altitude in life; and one of courageous spiritual ascent, which is to "climb our mountains."

PROPHETIC HADITH

The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) told us that when the Mahdi and Messiah would return, society would be given to open acts of shamelessness and increasingly "indulge in homosexuality." (Kanzul-Ummāl)

LUKE PROPHECY

In the Bible we read, just as the People of Lot "ate, drank, bought, and sold," having built a busy empire, ... to their surprise "fire and brimstone rained from heaven, destroying them all. Thus shall it be when the Son of man is revealed [again]" (Luke 17:28-30).

We find ourselves in these messianic times, where the scenes described above fit perfectly.

BOMBARDED BY SEXUAL IMAGERY

Children from a very early age are bombarded by sexual imagery and themes, many which confuse them. In film homosexuality is presented in a cute, funny, and witty fashion, and has become a feature on almost all TV and film. The highest courts in the land have now legalized it, and our national monuments flood themselves in rainbow colored lights. Indeed, for the "mountain climber" these gravitational forces of society are working hard against him.

HEDONISM

Another casual factor in all this is just plain hedonism, which is promoted. "Whatever feels good, do it?" Meanwhile the message is, "Homosexuality is a normal urge everybody experiences at some point in life." There's nothing wrong with "exploring your sexuality." All this at a formative age when their sexuality and gender identity is taking shape.

DESENSITIZATION OF TABOO

Those graphic images desensitize us to behaviors which we should not be desensitized too. As a result a culture of curiosity is born where we must try new things in order to find a thrill. You kill one desire, and a new one is born. This endless cycle leads to the gradual removal of all taboos, one after another—including those that come after homosexuality. And so validation of any laws based on moral taboo is called into question, be it incest, polygamy, or consensual relations with minors.

ON EMBARRASSMENT

This subject is sometimes embarrassing to discuss with children in our midst. But you will be surprised by how much they may already know. And very soon, your children may have friends with 'two moms' or 'two dads', which will lead to a lot of questions. Remember, the Holy Qur'ān is not all embarrassed. Meanwhile, television and classmates are not avoiding these conversations. They're replacing ones we aren't having.

IN ONE GENERATIONS TIME

And minority subgroups are very vulnerable. For minority communities new to a society it typically takes about one generation, or 20 years time, before they start showing the negative traits of a culture they have adopted. This is sometimes best scene in immigrant communities. For example, when some immigrant communities first came to this country the incidence of divorce among their parents was low. But as the taboo

on divorce is missing in this culture when compared to the East, we began seeing divorce and in just one generations time. If the taboo on homosexuality is broken now, where will we as a community stand in 20 years time? For our children's sake, we must ponder this question now.

THE 'HOLLYWOOD CULTURE'

The great irony of all this propaganda is that a lot of the societies that support gay marriage, including Hollywood culture, don't seem to value marriage in general which makes me question their agenda. Is this true about marriage, or is this more about sexual anarchy and about removing sexual taboo? One can only wonder.

IDENTICAL TWINS

The debate of nature vs nurture is one that's also spun by the same media machine. The best studies we have in the field of genetics on this subject are fairly easy to understand, and comes from identical twins. If you have identical twins, and one of them is gay, then 80% of the time, the other twin is not gay. And since identical twins share the exact same genetic code, this proves beyond any doubts that they are not "Born This Way." What is suggested is the possibility of genetic propensity perhaps, not determinism. Propensity is not determinism.

A 'GAY GENE'?

So genetics has actually worked against homosexuals in the nature vs. nurture debate, not in favor. There is no "gay gene" hardwiring us, and anyone who argues as such is illiterate as to the science on this subject. The Supreme Court decision had nothing to do with science.

SOCIETY DISTORTS

This is the same Supreme Court by the way that said African Americans were not human beings just 150 years ago. We've made bandwagon decisions against our better judgment before, and we're doing it again now.

EPIGENETICS

Far more important than the concept of genes are biochemical and environmental factors that are above genetics, or "epigenetic," and play a huge role in the way genes express themselves. These include one's environment, culture, and diet. Certain foods in Islam are strictly forbidden, such as the flesh of swine.

'MORAL FOOD'

How marvelous that Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) who predates the science epigenetic said in his book on Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam, "There is no doubt that morals are affected by food." Therefore, consumption of certain animals may lead to particular traits in nations that consume them.

SKIN COLOR

And, as such, homosexuality is not the same as physical attributes, like skin color. This is important because the gay movement is now calling themselves the civil rights movement of our time and tries to associate with the injustices against the African American people. This is however a deceptive strategy. Because while someone can be predisposed to certain behaviors but can suppress those urges, no one can be predisposed to being black and suppress their pigment.

MORAL RELATIVISM

I had a discussion with a friend back in college on moral relativism. He argued that there are no good morals or bad morals, just moralsbecause it's all relative. No moral system is superior over another. Sounds like a friendly philosophy, until you look closer.

MORAL COMPASS

Morality has to be absolute. Just like north, south, east and west, morality must have a definition which is fixed. A compass always points north because it has an outside reference point: magnetic fields.

MORAL CONTRADICTIONS

Without an outside reference point from God, we can never truly define morality. We'll only have contradictions; i.e., a Nazi morality, a communist morality, a slave-owners' morality, a Supreme Court morality, a Saudi court morality, and on and on. Therefore, true morality can only be found in religion and in relation to God.

MY FRIEND

My friend conceded my arguments, but somehow didn't want to change his opinion. What I didn't know at the time was that he was gay. And that I'd in fact be

the first person he would tell he was gay. And a day would come when he'd invite me to his wedding to another man. These are the interactions and social dilemmas your children are quietly facing. These scenarios are not hypothetical. They're realities.

SUMMIT

I didn't go to his wedding. And he no longer speaks to me because of it. But if I could talk to my friend now, I'd tell him that everybody has a mountain to climb. Nature or nurture, it doesn't matter. We know that children of alcoholics have a higher likelihood of becoming alcoholics themselves. But are those children condemned to that fate? Are they sentenced to that life just because of supposed predisposition? With no choice or free will, I'd tell him we might not be able to see what's beyond the mountain, or what's hidden for us in the clouds, but maybe if we'd just climb in that direction we'd find our way.

MAN VS MOUNTAIN

Gay or straight—we all struggle. And we all lose our path. We all do. Some of us just hide it better than others. So while I can't know your struggle, just like you can't know mine, I can say I do know what it feels like to slip, and slide down the side of the mountain.

To fall, wondering when I'm going to get back up. Seeing others make progress, wondering why does it seem like the gravity is stronger my side.

SEEING BEAUTY IS NOT LUST

It is only natural to acknowledge beauty in all of creation. After all, the Prophet Joseph is described as handsome in the Holy Qur'ān.

We can indeed recognize attractive physical traits in both genders, but this is not same sex attraction, nor should it be cause for it.

IMPULSES

If you have a fleeting desire, move pass it. Just like any impulse, even if natural, move on. The impulse to take something that doesn't belong to you is quite natural. We see it in children. But we have to tell them to stop, because when you grow up, it's called "stealing."

ASKING 'WHY ME?'

We all have our mountains and we all have our questions. Why does a child get cancer? Why is someone born into poverty? My dear brothers, when life brings you mountains, you don't waste your time asking why. Spend your time climbing over them. There is no progress in life without struggle. Don't think about the size of your mountain. Think about the size of your God.

HAZUR'S ADVICE

Hazur (may Allah be his Helper) advised that if Ahmadis should find themselves faced with such temptations, they should offer *Istighfār* (prayer offered to seek Allah's forgiveness). If your child is given to this, this is the formula. A father cannot beat the temptation out of them; you cannot yell it out of their minds. And you certainly cannot marry them to a girl hoping they'll snap out of it.

REMOVE TRIGGERS

Hazur (may Allah be his Helper) says, "Remove yourselves from any situations which may trigger these desires; then gradually you will be able to overcome these temptations." (Germany Visit, Review of Religions, June 28, 2013).

TOLERANCE

When the Supreme Court decision was made, out of empathy some youth celebrated or at least felt conflicted about how to react. It is important to remember, there is a difference between tolerance and acceptance. You can tolerate your friend's values, but you don't have to accept them. Friends should be allowed to disagree, it's OK.

TWO WAY STREET

And tolerance don't forget is a two way street; it is expected people should tolerate Islamic principles on social issues too. If I accept you as a friend, without accepting your values, would you do the same for me?

In other words, if I come out of the closet .... against gay marriage will you stop talking to me.... would "Love Still Win?" Would you cut your ties off with me? Be consistent and fair to Muslims as well. Because, increasingly, this is not the case.

LEAST TOLERANT

A mob surrounded the house of Lot. They told him if he did not desist in his preaching then surely he will be banished from his own town! We find this scene repeated today, as jobs are lost, promotions denied and people cast out simply because they have a difference of

opinion on this issue. They ask for tolerance but some of them, themselves, are the least tolerant.

LOVE FOR ALL

The real meaning of our motto "Love for All, Hatred for None" is that love is not limited to pleasing others. If someone is hurting themselves, it behooves you to tell them, if not to correct them. That is true and honest love. When a parent is disappointed with a child for making a mistake, is that hatred.. or is that love? When mother forbids her child to play because it's time for bed, is that her hatred, or is that her love?

CONSENTING ADULTS

Once you allow the State right to define marriages, not just unions, you open a box that can't be closed. With "consenting adults," you can justify any relationship no matter how immoral.

And what is about children? Where is their consent in that marriage? Prominent children of gay marriage are now speaking out against this injustice of lacking a father or mother figure in their life.

HEARTS and MINDS

It must be remembered that while we oppose gay marriage, it is wiser to focus on discussing the morality of gay marriage primarily, and the legality of it. Ultimately, court decisions follow the hearts and minds of people. Persuade society, and the courts will follow. The hearts and minds are about values; not about *civil union vs civil marriage*, not about *nature vs. nurture*… but about morality; about *man vs Mountain*.

PUBLIC vs. PRIVATE

As long as sexual preferences are kept private, then nobody has any business commenting on them. In fact, it's unislamic to do so. When they are repeatedly made public and pushed to be publicly accepted and legalized, then man can stand up for what he believes is best for society at large.

STDs AND SUFFERING

The results of its arrival into the public sphere is worth noting. The incidence of mental illness, drug addiction, infidelity, violence, and sexually transmitted diseases, particularly HIV, are all multiple order higher in homosexuals when compared to heterosexuals. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said that pestilence will afflict those given to shamelessness, and this applies aptly here. The punishment can come in many forms, and yes, it can come in the form of fire and brimstone too.

PEOPLE OF LOT DESTROYED

When Allah decreed, the earth shook; a volcano erupted, raining fire upon them. The People of Lot were destroyed by their mountain. The mountain they would not conquer ultimately conquered them. A few centuries ago archeologists uncovered another city destroyed by a mountain. When it's volcano erupted, the pressure of thermal energy that was released was equivalent to 100,000 atomic bombs. The ancient city was discovered buried beneath volcanic ash and molten rock; I speak of the people and city of Pompeii, a civilization frozen in time.

VOLCANO

What's fascinating is that their bodies are preserved in molds and casts of volcanic ash. Their bodies in poses of horror—a sign for all times. The excavation also uncovered artifacts and frescos, revealing a society were given to shamelessness and homosexuality was a strong theme in their culture. Similar other societies given to homosexuality were destroyed in Rome and Greece.

PROPHECY FULFILLED

The Days of Lot had returned before, and they've returned again. The prophecies in the scriptures reveal that when homosexuality will remerge, that the Messiah will return. So as the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: Even if you have to climb ice-bound mountains, to pledge your allegiance to the Imam of the Age, you must. And if on that climb, your feet grow tired and it's difficult for you, the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said that you should crawl on your hands and knees, rather than give up, give in, and lose hope.

WIFE OF LOT

Even the wife of Lot was destroyed. You can love your friends, you can support them, but that doesn't mean you have to support their choices. My dear Muslim youth, learn from the wife of Pharaoh, who remained under undesirable laws but kept her matter straight with God. Don't become a wife of Lot who was right under the shadow of the Imam of her time, but could not benefit from it. She denied his guidance and was destroyed.

BEST PEOPLE

My dear brothers, who is going to lead the tidal change in thought? It's not enough to reconcile the questions in our own minds; we must impart it to society. You are the best people raised for the good of mankind. You enjoin good, and your forbid evil. You don't have to be shy or ashamed of your own beliefs. Who will accept you, if you cannot even accept yourself? It should never behoove you to pander to please the crowd. You are aakhireen; no nation will be raised for the reformation of mankind after you.

ENDING

Transform your mountains of volcanoes into mountains of Sinai and mountains of Hira. This can be done by simply climbing them. May you be able to face this mountain, and as the Holy Qur'ān says, have the courage to scale its summit. Amen.



Members can also pay for the new subscription, renewal or gifts to the local finance secretary and email the receipt number and mailing address to usa@reviewofreligions.org. A special rate of $10/year is available for students.

Annual Reports of Departmental Activities

An overview of the departmental reports presented at the 2014-2015 US Shūra

Office of the General Secretary

Following tasks were carried out during the year under report.

The team of General Secretary Office conducted the proceedings of Majlis-e-Shūra 2014. The National Majlis-e-Amila and the Presidents of the local Jamā'ats were requested to submit the proposals for Shūra. They were asked to elect from the Shūra delegates secretaries and chairmen of Shūra sub-committees for implementations and approval of decisions taken by the Shūra. The Markaz should be informed about the activities and proposals.

The minutes of the meeting were prepared, circulated and were duly approved during the next Amila meeting. The concerned were asked for necessary action on the "action items."

Annual report of USA Jamā'at for the year 2013-14 was compiled and submitted to Markaz along with salient features of the previous year's activities for inclusion in Huzoor's second day address in Jalsa Salāna UK 2013.

A master reporting system designed in collaboration with Canada Jamā'at is in place. On the average, 50 percent office holders are currently using the system.

The calendar for the year 2015 was prepared after due inputs from national secretaries and heads of the auxiliaries.

The request for asylum and Tajnīd received during the year were processed for verification from the respective countries through Center (London Headquarters) and letters were issued to only verified individuals.

President's Refresher Course was conducted on 6-7 December 2014 in which presidents and national office holders and local Jamā'ats' Amila members participated.

First Regional Refresher Course was arranged on March 15, 2015 for presidents and their Amila for ten Jamā'ats at Baitur Rehman Mosque, Silver Spring MD. Monthly Report to Huzoor (may Allah support him with His mighty help).

A monthly report comprising the activities of the USA Jamā'at is submitted every month for perusal of Huzoor (may Allah support him with His mighty help).

National Tabligh Secretary Activities Report 2015

The Philadelphia Jamā'at formulated a simple plan to spread the message of Ahmadiyyat using car magnetic signs. Initially 100 signs were sold at Jalsa Salāna and Ansarullah Ijtema and 300 signs to various Tabligh Secretaries this year. The response continues to grow as a consistent Tabligh tool to spread the message of Ahmadiyyat in America's urban and small towns seven days a week.

The interfaith activities are reported by all the Jamā'ats throughout the year on holidays like Independence Day; Martin Luther King Celebrations; Veteran's Day; Thanksgiving Day and Black History Month.

The Miami Book Fair concluded on November 2014 have following salient features:

1. Main booth had books about Islam and Ahmadiyyat
2. Exhibition booth had translations of Holy Qur'ān in 26 languages and books about the life of Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)
3. Spanish booth shared literature in Arabic, French, Bangla, Chinese, Russian, Turkish and some other languages.

Some of the highlights of the book fair are as under:

i) Two thousand copies of "Life of Muhammad" (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and thousand copies of "World Crises and Pathway to Peace" were distributed.

ii) About 2,500 bags were given away filled with more than 10,000 flyers in English and Spanish.

iii) About 3,000 copies of "Review of Religions" and hundreds of "Muslim Sunrise" were distributed.

iv) Translations of Holy Qur'ān in English, Spanish and other languages were sold.

v) Thousands of pens, wrist bands (Love for all, Hatred for none), bookmarks and US flags were given away.

vi) Stalls were decorated with Muslims for peace, Muslims for Loyalty and other banners. Pictures of the

Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) and Ḥaḍrat Khailfatul-Masīḥ V (may Allah be his Helper) were displayed.

vii) Various Jamā'ats sponsored bookstalls at permanent Flea Market locations.

Tabligh conference held in October was attended by 45 Tabligh Secretaries or Jamā'at representatives. One hundred copies each of "World Crisis and Pathway to Peace ", "Life of Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)" , "British Government and Jihad" and "Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam" were distributed by all the Jamā'ats. Similarly in August – November period 100 copies of "Distinctive Features of Islam." were distributed. Tabligh Secretaries reported on an average fifty reports per month.

Tarbiyat

Communications:

National: Monthly conference call with ten regional Tarbiyyat secretaries is held with regularity.

Local: Monthly conference call held with local Tarbiyyat secretaries.

Newsletter: Spiritual Fitness newsletter is sent to over 6000 members averaging twice a month.

Website: Over 20,000 unique visitors with 65,000 page views counted.

Twitter: @Spiritual Fit Twitter account has 1070 followers.

YouTube: Uploading multiple Tarbiyyat related videos onto the YouTube Channel titled "Spiritual Fitness."

Shūra Proposal Status:

1. Measuring office holder's compliance with listening to Huzoor's sermons.

2. Establishing Tahir Academies

Al-Hamdu Lillah, 25 Tahir Academies have been established. Excellent collaboration with auxiliaries has been achieved and work is in progress to align syllabus.

Projects:

Friday Sermons: Tarbiyyat team identifies action items from Huzoor's Friday sermon and then distributes them to all Jamā'ats, every week, including the full text of the English summary and other links to listen to the sermons.

Ramadan Campaign, "30-Day Spiritual Fitness Challenge": Created and distributed Jamā'at specific Ramadan Calendars to over 30 Jamā'ats. Hundreds of calendars were downloaded from our website.

"What would you like to change about your Spirituality before next Jalsa?" campaign involved 200 plus youth who participated. A video was created and uploaded on YouTube.

Spiritual Fitness Camps: Over 700 members have participated in 19 Spiritual Fitness camps during last year.

"Establishing 200 Salat centers in 100 days" Campaign: We revived the campaign and were blessed with 214 Salat centers nationwide during 2014.

Spiritual Fitness Forums: Under the guidance of Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (may Allah be his Helper), discussion forum was launched on our website where more than 200 registered users have logged ~200,000 page views this year. Forums are averaging 500-1000 page views per day!

Ta'lim

Administrative: Processed two administrative proposals from the 2014 US Shūra. Managed the Student Database.

Accomplishments:

Published monthly ITK (*In the Know*) regularly.

Held an evening Ta'lim program at the 2014 US Jalsa Salāna.

Awarded the 2014 Talent based Medals, Merit based Scholarships and Need based Scholarships and Loans.

Awarded $26K to 13 students (from 5 Jamā'ats) under the 2014-2015 African-American Education Assistance Program.

Organized 2014 EDP (Education Day Program): 32 Jamā'ats held EDPs with more than 315 students (compared to 33 Jamā'ats with 270 students last year).

Launched the 2015 African-American Education Assistance, Talent Awards, Merit Scholarships and Need-based Scholarships and Loans Programs.

Promoted Roohani Khazain Study Program: 17 Jamā'ats have joined this program (Austin, Bloomington, Dallas, Des Moines, Houston-Cyp, Houston-N, Iowa, LAE, NJ-C, NJ-N, Queens, San Diego, Silicon Valley, and Syracuse, VA-C, VA-S, Washington).

Sam'i wa Basari (Audio-Video)

1) FUNCTION
   a. Provide and facilitate Audio-Video work
   b. Satellite 1) Dishes and Boxes 2) Facilitate Collection of Satellite Fund
   c. Maintain and expand Jamā'at Websites www.alislam.org , www.ahmadiyya.us and www.thepersecution.org . www.jalsasalana.org www.islamicfaq.org and many more
   d. Alislam is hosting over 70 sites with back-up on secure private Cloud

2) PERFORMANCE
- Audio-Video recordings of Jalsa Salāna USA 2012014 4/ National Jamā'at Functions/streaming
- Video-tapes for MTA International 50 (English and Spanish) (last year 15)
- MTA on Roku, MTA App on Samsung
- DVDs for Cable stations
- www.alislam.org Egazette
- Islam and Ahmadiyyat-- journals (gazette) and newspapers
- Alislam online library (1000) Books and Articles
- New Expanded Multi-Media Section alislam.org/v
- New Friday Sermons Archive—Audio, Video,Text/Indexing/Search
- Audio Q&A (Ask Islam) 1043
- Audio Books of Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him)as [>100hrs)
- Digital Media Library Video Q&A with index
- 9114 (8367) Programs, 6566 (5915) Hours, 10,766,402 (7,842,948) Views
- YouTube Uploads Full Friday Sermons, Liqa Maal Arab, Q&A and more videos are uploaded on Alislam and YouTube
- Holy Qur'ān : selected verses in 100 languages, PDF 48 (last year 42)
- Khalīfaofislam.com (new website)
- Mobile Apps : Holy Qur'ān, Friday Sermons, 10 conditions of Bai'at, MTA, Alfazl and more alislam.org/apps
- iBooks,eBooks and Google books alislam.org/books/epub/

WORK IN PROGRESS

MTA on Internet Ready Televisions
   a. MTA Intl Programs Real Talk, Open Forum, Spanish series and more programs
   b. Alislam and Online library daily expanding

Rishta Nāṭa

Three members of the central Rishta Nāṭa team had meeting with Hazoor (may Allah be his Helper) in London on May 24, 2014 to seek Hazoor's prayers and blessings. Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) gave instructions and advices. Lately the Rishta Nāṭa team has been restructured with 34 members. It comprised 8 Anṣār and Khuddam and 26 Lajna members. The department has a website www.Rishtanata.us and a secure server which has been operating smoothly since November, 2013.

About 450 members attended a meeting at Annual Jalsa Salāna USA 2015. Out of this 133 were candidates (57 males and 76 females) and rest was family members. Eighty families walked in with no prior registration. Two similar and independent programs for men and women were held at West Coast Jalsa on December 26, 2014. A total of eight Rishta Nāṭa seminars, programs and presentations were arranged at different Jamā'ats of USA.

The registered male and female candidates are 119 and 207 respectively. The department finalized 10 Rishtas during last one year. There are several proposals in pipeline.

Under the instruction of Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper), the department has started premarital counseling. Six members have received at least one training session.

Umur Kharijiyya (Public Affairs)

The Public Affairs Department strived to fulfill the the following directives from the Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V(may Allah be his Helper).

- Focus primary attention on denial of voting rights for Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan (engage U.S. lawmakers)
- Strengthen contacts and connections with the U.S. State Department
- Assist Ahmadi Muslims in obtaining asylee or refugee status
- Develop local grassroots efforts to engage 50% of local public officials.

Following is a summary of the accomplishments of the department with respect to the above directives.

- Meetings with members of U.S. Congress (House) (or staff): 395

- Meetings with members of U.S. Congress (Senate) (or staff): 46
- Meetings with U.S. State Department officials in D.C.: 43
- Meetings with other government agencies in D.C.: 9
- Meetings with U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom: 16
- Meetings with United Nations officials: 23
- Meetings with U.S. embassy officials: 34
- Meetings with foreign embassy officials: 93
- Meetings with officials in China, Thailand, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, FSM: 41
- Meetings with mayors, governors and other state representatives: 292
- Meetings with intellectuals and professors: 131
- Meetings with NGOs and think tanks: 33
- Total meetings in all categories: 1156

Highlights of Organization, infrastructure, and internal growth:

- 10 monthly teleconference meetings with locally elected PA secretaries (average attendance ~35 secretaries)
- 12 monthly teleconference meetings with National PA team members (20 team members in total)

5th Annual "Day on the Hill" and 9th Annual National Public Affairs Seminar Highlights:

"Day on the Hill" (February 13, 2015) event:

- Second annual launch of "Ahmadiyya Muslim Caucus" in Rayburn Building led by Co-Chair U.S. Congressman Ted Poe (R-TX); Juma offered in Cannon Caucus Room
- 98 delegates from 68 Chapters participated in 200 total meetings with U.S. Congressional offices (House/Senate), including over 40 direct meetings with members of U.S. Congress (not staff), at Capitol Hill in D.C. A special 150- page binder/dossier (with appendices reflecting current activities) was prepared for each U.S. Congressional office
- Historic coverage of event in NBC Nightly News

National Public Affairs Seminar (February 14, 2015):

- 80 total delegates, including 3 Naib Umara and 3 Regional Missionaries, from 68 Chapters participated in this year's Seminar.

"Muslims for Life" U.S. Capitol Hill Blood Drives Highlights:

- Special Capitol Hill blood drive for "Muslims for Life" scheduled on 9/11/14 (Rayburn) in partnership w/ American Red Cross (approx. 35 donors, including 3 members of U.S. Congress and two dozen members of U.S. Congressional staff)
- 3 members of U.S. Congress (Reps. Petri, Speier and Ellison) participated and made statements to the press
- Feature story in *Roll Call* (U.S. Congressional newspaper)

U.S. State Department Outreach – Highlights

- 43 separate in-person meetings with ~45 officials from the U.S. State Department in D.C.
- 8/16/14 – Shaarik Zafar, Special Representative to Muslim Communities for U.S. Secretary of State, spoke at USA Jalsa Salāna
- Multiple occasions – met with Director of Pakistan Affairs, Jonathan Pratt, and staff of Bureau of South and Central Asia and Bureau of Asia and Far East
- Multiple occasions – met with senior staff of Bureau of Democracy, 3 Human Rights and Labor (DRL)
- Multiple occasions – met with Desk Officers for Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Federal States of Micronesia
- Multiple occasions – met with Office of Int'l Religious Freedom
- 12/5/14 – meeting with Shawn Casey, Special Assistant for Faith-Based Engagement to U.S. Secretary of State, John Kerry
- 3/3/15 – meeting with former U.S. Secretary of State Madeline Albright
- 4/7/15 – meeting David Sapperstein, U.S. Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom

Federal (Congressional) Outreach Highlights

- 441 individual meetings with members of U.S. Congress and/or staff (House/Senate)
- Special meetings of Ahmadi delegations with U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell (Kentucky) (twice), U.S. Senator John Cornyn (Texas), U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham (South Carolina) and U.S. Senator Bob Corker (Tennessee)
- Received special Jalsa Salāna greetings/letters from over 20 U.S. Congressional leaders + Governors + Mayors
- 8/16/14: U.S. Rep. Andre Carson (Indiana) delivers video address at USA Jalsa Salāna (recipient of Humanitarian Award)

- 9/5/14: U.S. Rep. Joe Pitts (Pennsylvania) provides official Congressional Proclamation for 75h Anniversary of MKA USA for National Ijtema
- 12/10/14: U.S. Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA) addresses 500 people at 10th Anniversary Gala for Humanity First USA (5 other members of Congress give special messages)
- 12/27/14: U.S. Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), Chairman of House Committee on Foreign Affairs, spoke as keynote at West Coast Jalsa Salāna guest session

Gala for Humanity First USA (5 other members of Congress give special messages)

- 2/13/15: U.S. Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX) addresses 98 Ahmadi delegates

State/City Outreach – Highlights:

- 292 individual meetings with local and state officials (including mayors and governors) across 77 chapters
- 8/16/14: Mayor of Harrisburg (PA) delivers proclamation/message at USA Jalsa Salāna
- 9/5/14: Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett provides official state proclamation for 75h Anniversary of MKA USA for National Ijtema
- 11/18/14: Muslims for Life blood drive at Massachusetts State House
- 3/1/15: Missionary Zafar Sarwar delivers prayer at State Capitol in Washington
- 3/13/15: Delegation met with Governor of Maryland, Martin O'Malley

Intellectual Outreach – Highlights:

- 131 meetings with professors/intellectuals across ~55 chapters
- 25+ chapters held seminars/lectures at prominent national universities and graduate schools 4
- 8/16/14 – ~500 professors invited to Jalsa Salāna USA (7 professors attended Jalsa; two professors spoke during guest sessions)
- Fall 2014 – special UC Berkeley course on Islam/Ahmadiyyat (guest taught by 9 Ahmadi lecturers)
- 9/30/15 – 11/3/15 – special historic U.S. tour of Respected Mujeeb-ur-Rahman Advocate (spoke at Harvard Law School, Princeton University, Columbia Law School, NYU Law School, UC Irvine and Library of Congress)

NGOs/Think Tanks Outreach – Highlights:

- 33 individual meetings held with 20+ organizations, including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, Becket Fund for Religious Liberty; U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, American Islamic Congress, Hudson Institute, Middle East Institute, Muslim Advocates, Muslim Public Affairs Council, Council on American-Islamic Relations, American Jewish Federation, Anti-Defamation League, Asylum Access

Assistance for Ahmadi Muslims in Other Countries Highlights:

- National PA Team has worked on issue of persecution of Ahmadi Muslims in The Gambia, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, India and Bangladesh; met U.S. State Department Desks; additional support for issues of registration in Federal States of Micronesia

Special Mission to Thailand

- Winter 2014: Qudus Malik Sahib traveled to Thailand on a special multi-week fact-finding mission to assist Ahmadi refugees in Bangkok

Miscellaneous Highlights:

- 7/15/14: Muhammed Ahmad Chaudhry mentioned by President Obama by name during White House Iftar event
- 8/16/14: Dr. Robert George, Chair of U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, speaks at USA Jalsa Salāna (keynote address)
- 11/14/14: Special event at United Nations by MKA USA on Muslim youth radicalization (over 150 attendees; distinguished speakers from UN and foreign embassies)
- 12/10/14: President Obama provides letter for 10th Anniversary Gala of Humanity First USA
- 2/16/15: 2 Ahmadi delegates participated in White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism

Umūr ʻĀmma

Social Services: Year 2014/15 National HQ disbursed $125,528.53 to our Jamāʻat members.

Total Refugees/Asylees information received from 22 chapters = 74 refugees.

Security office:

During the period under report, all Jamāʻats observed their own security precautions.

Received number of requests from Jamāʻats for cameras and security equipments like locks etc.

Working on the quotes to see if we can do some of it within our budget.

Processed approvals for 2 Jamā'ats for security equipments including digital entrance locks.

Drafted detailed National security policies and procedures, mailed to all the Jamā'ats.

Finance

Proposed income budget exceeded last year's budget by more than 6%. Proposed expense budjet, covering 73 chapters and foreign countries assigned to US, included 3,500,000 for new mosque projects and repairs, 200,000 for scholarships and grants.

The Wasāyā Department Report

Waṣāyā department presented data on the number of Mūṣīs in every chapter. The department is quite close to achieving their goal of 50% Mūṣīs of all contributing members. Oshkosh, GA/Carolinas and Kentucky are First, second and third respectively. Percentage of Moosies in USA Jamā'ats as of 20 April, 2015 (First ten positions) is as follows:

1. Oshkosh
2. Gerogia-Carolina
3. Kentucky
4. Binghampton
5. Research Triangle
6. Seatle
7. York
8. Rochester
9. LA-Inland Empire
10. Houston South

Ta'limul-Qur'ān and Waqf 'Ārḍī

There are 7 sub-teams with total of over 100 volunteers, 11 Regional Secretaries and 70 Local Secretaries. 10 Jamā'ats held their Qur'ān conferences. Two Regional Qur'ān classes were held.

Most of the Female Certified Teachers have devoted themselves for teaching Qur'ān 12 hours a day online, on Skype and/or by phone.

Classes of Moulana Imam Irshad Malhi and Moulana Imam Rizwan Khan are popular and attended by members form all over USA.

Long Commentary classes prepared from the books of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) and taught by Respected Lutful-Mannan have been uploaded on Youtube.

Taḥrīk Jadīd

The total collection for the fiscal year 2013-14 was $1.986 Million as against our budget of $ 1.3 Million, an increase of 53 %, from our estimated budget. Al-Hamdu Lillah. No. of Participants this year were 11,450 against the target of 13,000. Per Capita contribution was $ 173.

Top Five chapters are:

Silicon Valley $ 130,419

LA East $ 106143

Detroit $ 104,350

Seattle $ 86.178

Harrisburg $ 80,050

Waqf Jadīd

In 2014, the total amount donated by the members of the US Jamā'at amounted to $1,388,018. The per participant contribution was $123, the highest in the world.

The total number of participants was 11,317.

The above number includes 2,993 children (against 2,813 last year), an increase of 6% over last year. This year we again saw an increase in the number of children enrolled as Nanha Mujahids (young participants). A total of 1,144 children donated at the level of $50 set to qualify as Nanha Mujahid/Nanhi Mujahida, an increase of 17%. Al-Hamdu Lillah!

Top ten performing chapters were Silicon Valley, Detroit, Seattle, York/Harrisburg, L. A. East, Boston, Central VA, Dallas, Houston N and Philadelphia.

Ja'idād (Property)

Binghamton, N.Y Mosque:



Saint Louis Missionary House



Phildelphia Mosque (Under Construction)



Charlotte NC (Under Construction)



Dallsa TX (Left: Existing. Right: On-Going)



Bay Point CA (In Planning)



Boston (In Planning)



Baltimore (Acquired)



Atlanta



Seattle (Acquired)



North Jersey (In Process)



Waqf-e-Nau



In compliance with the wishes of Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul Masīḥ V (may Allah be his Helper) Waqf-e-Nau USA is organizing visits of "Jāmi'a Ahmadiyya Canada Team" to various Jamā'ats in USA on West Coast, East Coast and Mid-West. Five American boys got admission at Jāmi'a Canada but four of them could not go as they did not get visa. Now they are studying online in the US via Skype, etc. He is first Waqf-e-Nau who has successfully completed studies at Jāmi'a Canada and is assigned to USA Jamā'ats. This year 8th Jāmi'a Orientation course was held at Masjid Baitul-Hadi, Old Bridge, NJ from August 18 to August 27, 2014. There were eight Jāmi'a Canada students who taught various subjects. National Waqf-e-Nau teleconferences are being held on regular basis. The Waqf-e-Nau curriculum desk has been holding live weekly classes since April, 2009 via Internet Radio.

Waqifeen-e-Nau girls of all ages along with their mothers and local Mu'avinat Sadrs were invited to attend a special program on the eve of Jalsa Salāna USA. The program was conducted by Sadr Lajna Ima'illa USA.



There are 920 (Boys 551; Girls 369) Waqifīn-e-Nau of all ages with approved Waqf-e-Nau number. Waqifīn-e-Nau aged 15 and above with approved number is 463 (Boys 292; Girls 171).

Agriculture



The primary objective of "Ahmadiyya National Agriculture Program for USA" (a copy of the program is available upon request) is to promote "Tabligh" and enhance attendance and participation of existing and prospective members in Jamā'at activities. For this purpose, we are working on the following strategies:

1. Feed the Hungry
2. Beautify Mosques

Last year, during the first season we planted nearly 2,000 flower and vegetable plants in the borrowed space in USDA greenhouse. See pictures.



Other general activities:



We also wrote a proposal for agriculture project in Marshall Islands, this was followed by another proposal for possible funding from USAID. In addition, wrote a comprehensive appendix for acquisition of plant material and supplies for conducting agriculture project in Marshal Islands.

An article on health benefits of olive products was published in Muslim Times.



Visited Houston, St. Louis, and Chicago Jamā'at, gave presentations and thoroughly discussed the agriculture program. Provided materials and information help to the interested people; Chicago and St Louis Jamā'at are actively participating and hopefully become role model for other Jamā'ats. Hopefully, more interactions will follow with these Jamā'ats and others that show interest.

Documents were generated which provide information for online purchase of seeds and supplies.

Publications

Review of Religions is the oldest English magazine published by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community to take the message of Ahmadiyyat to the English-speaking world. Jamā'at officers and members are encouraged to subscribe for themselves and others and approach libraries, schools, professors and clergy to subscribe to the magazine.

Copies of current and old issues are also available for outreach purposes to distribute at fairs and stalls. More than 10,000 old copies were shipped to individuals and Jamā'ats during the year for outreach purposes. Please contact Imam Adnan Ahmed in Pittsburgh PA at usa@reviewofreligions.org or the publications secretary at publications@ahmadiyy.us for subscriptions or old copies for outreach. Annual subscription rate is $30 for 12 issues with $10 for students. Orders for new subscriptions, renewals or gifts can be placed at the home page at www.reviewofreligions.org/. Many thanks to outgoing coordinator, Faiza Bajwa, and her team in New York who supported the distribution of Review in the US for many years.

Muslim Sunrise is one of the oldest Islamic periodical in the US published to reach out to the US public: It is published quarterly and addresses current controversies to highlight pristine guidance presented by Islam. Several hundred copies of every issue are exclusively printed for outreach purpose. Free subscriptions include complimentary issues to government officials/organizations, public officials, think tanks, critics, newspapers and periodicals editorial staff, news agencies/networks officials,

educators, colleges/universities, public libraries, Jamā'at officials like Amila members, presidents of all US chapters, etc., and Jamā'at centers (including London/Rabwah). Jamā'at officers and members are encouraged to subscribe for themselves and others and approach libraries, schools, professors and clergy to subscribe to the magazine. Sample copies are available. Copies of current and old issues are also available for outreach purposes to distribute at fairs and stalls. Please contact Falah Shams at editor@muslimsunrise.com. Annual subscription rate is $15/year. Please find the homepage at www.muslimsunrise.com.

Ahmadiyya Gazette/Al-Nur: Special editions were published on the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him), Muṣliḥ Mau'ūd (may Allah be pleased with him), Khilāfat, Jalsa Salāna USA and Ramadan. Ahmadiyya/Gazette/Al-Nur is sent free of charge to every Ahmadi household in the US. Any members who are not receiving this magazine should make sure with their local president that their mailing address is entered correctly in the Jamā'at database. Please send Jamā'at event reports including births, marriages and deaths for publication to publications@ahmadiyya.us. Please find the home page at www.ahmadiyyagazette.us. Respected Jaleel Akbar has been scanning old issues for putting on the site with the help of Hammad Malik.

Al-Hilal is an English periodical compiled by and published for the Ahmadi Muslim children in the US: It is sent free of charge to every Ahmadi household in the US. Any members who are not receiving this magazine should make sure with their local president that their mailing address is entered correctly in the Jamā'at database. Please contact Aliya Latif at thealhilal@yahoo.com. Please find the home page at www.alislam.org/alhilal/.

History Committee: Respected missionary Yahya Luqman has been assigned by the Respected Amir US to compile the history of Ahmadiyyat in the US. A team was put together to compile and layout the narrative with pictures and graphics.

The site **amibookstore.com** has been established to help members obtain Jamā'at books quickly at reasonable prices for personal use. At the end of March 2015, it had 57,085 copies of 937 titles from 1194 available titles in 112 languages. Members can also order books from www.alislam.org/store. Jamā'ats can order books from amibookstore.us very easily and conveniently for their libraries, for sale and for outreach purposes. Apart from books from London and Qadian, bookstore also acquired books from other sources to meet the needs of libraries, missionaries, chapters and members. Contact Mohammad Ahmed Nasir at incharge@amibookstore.us.

Libraries: Jamā'ats can place orders at amibookstore.us to populate their local and regional libraries.

Books Printed:

1. The American Edition of Tabligh Guide written by Imam Naseem Bajwa.

2. Second Edition of The Disciple by Rashid Arshed.

A number of titles are in the process of approval for publication. Notable titles in progress are:

Fiqh Ahmadiyya Translation has been completed by Dr Lutf Rehman and is in review.

Detailed History of Ahmadiyyat in US by Imam Yahya Luqman is in progress.

Please let us know if any other work in progress (except for the work being done directly under the direction of Wakālat Tasnīf) so that it can be monitored and members may be assisted in the completion of their work.

DVD publishing equipment has been acquired with the help of Audio/Video department to mass-produce DVDs for playing on cable and for distribution for outreach. It is being managed by Sarjo Trawalley and Anwar Saeed in Boston. Currently about two dozen cable TV channels run our programs at least once a month. Please send your requests to publications@ahmadiyya.us.

Local Publications: Numerous Jamā'ats publish local newsletters in print and/or online. Jamā'ats are requested to put their current and old newsletters online to preserve history and for easy access for members. New York also has been publishing Jamā'at calendar for the last 20 years or so.

Local Book Clubs: Chapters have reported holding book club meetings to encourage reading of the books of the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him.

Publications website: Please visit www.ahmadiyya.us/departments/publications to learn about the responsibilities, activities and objectives of the publications departments. Please contact publications@ahmadiyya.us for your questions and needs.

Total Quantity of **Literature Distributed** Free: 23,808+

Total Estimated No. of People Received the message through this mean: 30,172+

Total No. of **Exhibitions**: 86+. Estimated No. of Visitors: 14,234+

Permanent Exhibitions:

1: Orlando

2: Jamaica, Queens

3: West Side, Manhattan

4: Long Island City, Queens

5: Harlem, Manhattan

6: Hollis, Queens

7: Mid Town, Manhattan

8: Milwakee The front entrance

9: Milwaukee On the men's side, above the shoe rack

10: Milwaukee On the women's side, in the salat area

11: Milwaukee Posting of pictures by the secretary Mal's office

12: Milwaukee Posting of pictures in the lower level of the mosque

13: LA Library

14: LA Lobby area

15: Rochester In the mosque: one room dedicated for the Library/literature

16: Baitur-Rahman bookstore, Silver Spring, MD

The Holy Qur'ān Exhibitions: 42. No of Visitors 7,090

Participation In **Book Fairs**: Total No. of Book Fairs: 15+. Estimated No. of Visitors: 6,905+

Bookstalls: Total No. of Bookstalls held: 90+. Estimated No. of Visitors: 11,800+

Bookstalls once or more times a week:

1. Bay Point (four times a week) ~200
2. Milwaukee/Zion (7-Mile) ~50
3. Orlando (Jacksonville) ~50
4. Philadelphia (trailer) ~100
5. Rochester ~50
6. St Louis ~50
7. Syracuse ~50

Monthly

1. Willingboro ~12

Once a year:

1. Atlanta

a. Decatur County Fair 7/11-18 and

b. Decatur Book Festival 8/30-9/1

2. Los Angeles E

a. Chinese New Years - Monterrey Park, CA - Feb (Prev. in downtown .L.A. Chinatown 10+ yrs)

b. L.A. County Fair (since 1997) Pomona, Ca. 23 days (Wed-Sun) in Sept.

c. Arab-American Festival (since mid-2000s) - Garden Grove, CA - last Fri-Sat-Sun in Sept.

d. Upland Lemon Festival - Upland, CA - Last Fri-Sat-Sun in April (10+ yrs)

e. Juneteenth Celebration (Black History event) - Rivcerside, CA / Pomona, CA - June (7+ yrs)

f. Black History Month celebration & parade - Riverside, CA - Feb. (5+ yrs)

g. Latino Book and Family Festival - Cal State Dominguez Hills - usually in Oct. (8+ yrs)

3. Los Angeles W Los Angeles Times Festival of Books held on the campus of USC

4. Miami (November)

5. New York (more than once)

6. St Louis August 10

7. Tucson (March)

8. Virginia/Potomac/Laurel/Silver Spring

Muslim Sunrise Circulation:

As per our last issue which can go up few hundreds for issue before Jalsa and also on the nature of topic. (Data provided by Mubashar Khan, Ibn-e-Shauq, the 4th.) Chapters are welcome to order or pre-order copies for outreach purposes.

1) Congress =450

2) Prisons = 20

3) Media, Think tanks and Libraries= 850

4) Mosques/Jamā'at Centers =160

5) Missionaries/Pres.= 620

6) Reg Members including writers and Zion project= 1565

7) Tabligh Dept (HQ) = 150

8) Back up copies for Jalsa, Bookstore, Lajna and Book fairs etc = 400-500

9) Sen to to senators: 100

Please contact publications@ahmadiyya.us if you have questions, concerns, suggestions or need help.

Media Communication & Outreach Report

Objectives: The Media department has two primary objectives.

- To make Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA become the leading provider of Islamic content in

USA across Print, Television, Radio, and Online Media.

- To train local media relation experts in every Jamā'at.

Training Sessions: Since creation, the Media Team has organized 14 training sessions. Training programs have been held in the following Jamā'ats. Neighboring Jamā'ats from the region were also invited to these programs. Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles, Silicon Valley, Houston, Dallas, New York, Headquarters Region, Rochester, Miami, Boston, Oshkosh and Canada Jamā'at (Toronto).

This year we conducted one Training Session in Canada; 4 countries were participated (USA, Canada, UK, Germany).

National Press Releases and Media Advisories

43 Press Releases/Media Advisories were sent to thousands of media outlets and contacts on the following Jamā'at events in English and some in Spanish:

• Jalsa Salāna UK

• Jalsa Salāna USA

• Dr. Mehdi Ali Shaheed

• Pakistan School Attack

• Mujeeb Ur Rehman Sahib's talks in different Universities

• Charlie Hebdo Attack

• Chapel Hill Incident

• Denmark Attack

• Female Bomb Plot

Assistance to Local Jamā'ats for Media Outreach

• Custom media lists were provided to various Jamā'ats/Office Holders.

• Media advisories were developed based on specific information provided by Jamā'ats.

• Email blasts were sent to every contact on the media list.

• Follow up phone calls was made to media outlets to cover local events.

• Research of media outlets was carried out to ensure accurate information is recorded by the appropriate media contact.

• Media Team utilized researched information to procure interviews with local Jamā'at spokespersons and/or for the journalists to cover local events.

• As necessary, the Media Team assisted the local Jamā'ats post their events on the event calendars.

Phone Call Support for Campaigns

1. NYC Jamā'at MMOP event: 100 calls

2. Bangla MMOP Event: 100 calls

3. Bloomington, IL Jamā'at MMOP event: 50 calls

4. Buffalo, NY Jamā'at MMOP event: 50 calls: WLVL 1340 AM (Radio)

5. New Orleans Jamā'at MMOP event: 50 calls: The New Orleans Advocate

6. Indiana Jamā'at MMOP (2 events): 100 calls: The Star Press, JCOnline, WFYI.org (Radio)

7. Central New Jersey MMOP event: 100 calls: NJ.com

8. St. Louis, MO Jamā'at MMOP event: 75 calls: St. Louis Post Dispatch

9. Boston Jamā'at 'Muslims for Life' event: 100 calls: Metro west Daily News, WROR 105.7, WPKZ AM 1280 / Fm 105.3, Boston.com

10. Kansas City Jewish Center: 50 calls (including calls for Houston & Indiana Jamā'ats)

11. Qasim Rashid Time.com Op-Ed Media Outreach: 20 calls

12. Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar's Martyrdom: 150 calls (Including calls for Houston & Indiana Jamā'ats)

13. MKA Day on the Hill Press Conference Outreach: 20 calls

14. Boston Jamā'at Ramadan: 30 calls: Boston Globe, India New England News

15. Pittsburgh Jamā'at Ramadan: 100 calls: The Jewish Chronicle

16. Jalsa Media Coverage: 500 calls

17. 'Muslims for Life' blood drive Kentucky: 20 calls

18. 'Muslims for Life' Capitol Hill blood drive: 250 calls: Roll call

19. Gujranwala Attack Press Release: Dallas: Star Local media

20. Mujeeb ur Rahman sahib tour:

a. Boston: 100 calls

b. Columbia: 50 calls

c. Princeton: 50 calls: NJ.com published recap

d. UC Irvine: 100 calls: Daily Pilot published recap

21. National MKA UN: 150 calls: Al Jazeera, NY Times, Fox News, Associated Press

22. Press Release Indiana Peter Kassig: Radio Interview: 2 coverage

23. Miami Book Fair: 30 calls:Radio Interview: WFTL AM

24. Eid ul Adhia: Indiana: 50 calls: Kokomo Tribune published pre-announcement & story after Eid - 2 articles

25. Kentucky Muslims for Life: 50 calls: Lexington Herald published announcement for blood drive

26. Fort Worth, TX Muslims for Life : 50 calls: Dallas Morning News/ CBS 11 TV/ Azteca America

27. Indiana Muslims for Life: 50 calls: Coverage by 2 TV stations

28. Houston, TX Muslims for Life: Fox 26 coverage

29. Fort Worth, TX Women's Interfaith health expo: 50 calls: Dallas Morning news 2 articles published

30. Detroit, Michigan: Middle East Crisis Seminar: 100 calls: Detroit News published announcement & TV coverage

31. Houston, TX Interfaith Thanksgiving: 20 calls: Houston Chronicle Article

32. Central Jersey Thanksgiving: 50 calls: MyCentralJersey.com: 2 articles & News 12 NJ TV coverage

33. Muslims for Life - St. Louis Jamā'at: 50 calls: Radio Interview

34. France Charlie Hebdo PR: Indiana Jamā'at media: WIBC radio interview, Kokomo Tribune newspaper quoted PR

35. Charlie Hebdo PR - Indiana: Newspaper, Current in Carmel interviewed local Jamā'at spokesperson and published story

36. UNC Chapel Hill Press Release: 50 calls

37. Denmark PR - Houston: 30 calls: 1 radio interview KNTH AM-1070 Radio & Guidry News (online) posted the press release on their website

38. Pittsburgh Interfaith 'Religious Founders Day': 60 calls: Covered by: Pittsburgh Post Gazette, Triblive.com (2

Articles), the Jewish Chronicle, and the Almanac.net. 2 radio interviews: KDKA 1020 AM (CBS news radio) &

KQV 1410 AM (News radio)

39. Muslims for Life - Indiana: 30 calls: Star Press, Ball State Daily

40. MMOP - Dallas - 50 calls: Plano Star Courier, Dallas Morning News (2 articles)

41. MMOP - Central Jersey - 100 calls - The South Asian Times, Central Jersey.com / USA Today, Fios1 NJ TV

42. Harris Zafar Talk & Book Signing Event "Demystifying Islam"- Connecticut : 60 calls: Daily Campus paper & Fox CT

Total calls: 3225

Social Media Campaign:

• We are actively using @Islam Press Twitter handle to tweet all Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA media coverage and press releases. We also frequently tweet international media coverage of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community that may be of interest to our followers. In addition, we actively tweet general informational tweets such as Hadith of Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and quotes of Huzoor (may Allah support him with His mighty help).

• We are continuing to tag reporters and media outlets in our tweets.

• This year we have launched several twitter ad campaigns to promote our handle as well as specific OP EDS.

• We are continuing to live tweet from special events such as East Coast & West Coast Jalsa Salāna.

• Islam Press Twitter handle currently has 2,234 followers. 226 of these followers are media outlets. Our total tweet count is 4,055.

Media Coverage Data

Newspaper 582,. TV 59 3 hrs 33 mins. Radio 19 3 hrs 31 mins. Internet 293. **TOTAL 954**

Notable Outlets Covering Jamā'at Events and News Newspapers

The Wall Street Journal. USA Today. The New York Times. The Washington Post. Los Angeles Times. Houston Chronicle. Chicago Tribune. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. The Columbus Dispatch. The Baltimore Sun. Contra Costa Times. The Miami Herald. Christian Science Monitor. The Dallas Morning News. Philadelphia Inquirer. Washington Times. Huffington Post. AFP. Associated Press.

Television: The O'Reilly Factor (Fox Show). CNN Wolf Blitzer. CNN - John Berman. Fox News - Spirited Debate. Fox News - Kelly's Depate. Local NBC affiliates. Local CBS affiliates. Local ABC affiliates. Local Fox affiliates.

Important Initiatives Coverage by Media

Initiative: Dr Mehdi Ali Shaheed 133

Coverage Number: Charlie Hebdo 121. Chapel Hill 24. Muslims for Loyalty 10

International News

By the Grace of Allah, on 4th July 2015, a program was held by Jamā'at New Zealand by the title "Iftari Experience 2015." The main purpose was to convey the beautiful teachings of Islam regarding fasting and the blessed month of Ramadan. 85 outside guests attended the program. (Al-Fazl International 18 Sep 2015)

After a peace symposium organized by the government of Benin, Jamā'at scholars had Tablighi dialogue with Arab scholars from Jāmi'a Azhar, etc. Total attendance was 29. (Al-Fazl International 18 Sep 2015)

The 29th Annual Anṣārullah Ijtima was held on 24, 25 May 2015 in Oslo, Norway. Concluding session was attended by the Ameer Norway. The total attendance was 130. (Al-Fazl International 18 Sep 2015)

Jamā'at Ahmadiyya France held their 24th Jalsa Salāna on 31st July-2 Aug 2015. This year Jalsa was streamed live on internet and notifications were sent through twitter. Over 850 members attended the Jalsa. (Al-Fazl Rabwah 1 Sep 2015)

The 6th Jalsa Salāna of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Trinidad was held on 24th May 2015. A question and answer session was held during the Jalsa which lasted for an hour. Total attendance was 295. (Al-Fazl Rabwah 3 Sep 2015)

The 7th Jalsa Salāna of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Congo (Province Bas Congo) was held on 6-7 Feb 2015. The Jalsa was widely covered by press and media. Over 600 members attended the Jalsa. (Al-Fazl Rabwah 21 Sep 2015)

American Muslims Launch Billboard Campaign To Dispel Myths about Islamic Prophet Muhammad

Mr. Baig, the ICNA President said: "This billboard campaign is not the first of its kind; ICNA ran another one two years ago featuring signs that drew parallels between Islam and Christianity. The Council on American-Islamic Relations ran a campaign in 2013 to explain the meaning of jihad. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has also run several billboard and bus campaigns featuring the slogans "Muslims for Peace" and "Muslims for Loyalty," including a flashing sign in Times Square in New York."

The response to the campaign has been peaceful so far, said Baig, who added that the organization had received calls in response to the billboards. "The hateful and abusive calls are in small number as compared to the positive ones," he said. (www.icna.org)

TI College Alumni Association USA



The election for the Executive Board of TI College Alumni Association (TICAA), USA, for 2015-2018 was held during the Association's General Body meeting at the Jalsa site on August 15. It has been approved by the Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (may Allah be his Helper).

Kindly help complete the list of TIC Alumni in the US and send me the names, phone numbers, e-mail and mailing addresses of all the US Alumni who are in your circle of friends and acquaintances.

Because of generous contribution from many of the Alumni and non-Alumni members of the Jamā'at, the association was able to collect close to $15,000 in scholarship fund for the year 2015. Our pledge to Huzoor (May Allah be his Helper) is to continue funding this cause for 10 years. Drive for the 2016 Academic year has already started. We must collect and submit $15,000 by November 15, 2015. We request that please write a check of your contribution to AMI and mail it to Treasures, Mr. Abdul Rashid Fouzi, 1007 Smoke Tree Rd, Pikesville, MD 21208. Phone: 410-653-2540.

website: http://www.ticalumniusa.org/

Blood Drive of Rochester Jamā'at

Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Rochester held its best blood drive this year. Those who donated or spent time at the Mosques during this successful drive are thanked. Thanks are for Executive Assistant to the Mayor, Andreas Rau for attending the event. Tony Lafountain, Penfield Town Supervisor also attended the event and thanked the Jamā'at for inviting him. Three news channels come in (Time Warner Cable News, 13 WHAM and News 8). The reporter from Time Warner Cable who was the same one that attended last year mentioned that there were a good number of people flowing in and out as compared to the last year.

Overall, 31 people came in and signed up to give blood. Twenty five (25) units of blood were collected which was best number to-date, Al-Hamdu Lillah. There were 5 new donors and 5 outside guests who came to donate blood. As always, Red Cross staff seems to have a good time and was pleased with the hospitality.

Col. Saied Ahmad Malik Passes Away

Col. Saied Ahmad Malik served the USA National Jamā'at for decades under the leadership of Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad and Ḥaḍrat Sahibzada Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad (May Allah elevate their ranks in Heavens). Col. Saied Ahmad Malik was the father of Shahid Saied Malik, National Secretary Umur-e-Āmma. Inna Lillahi WA Inna Ilaihi Rāji'ūn. May Allah elevate his rank in Heavens.

TV Spanish News Story on Muslims for Life Event

As part of our Muslims for Life Blood Drive at Georgia Tech, Ms. Najia Humayun (Daughter of Dr. Naseer Humayun), organized the drive along with other students. Ms. Humayun is a first year student at Georgia Tech and she has done successful blood drives in her high school during last few years. She is fluent in Spanish as well. A news story was telecasted on 9/11 on Tele Mundo Atlanta for our Muslims for Life Drives in Atlanta under the title of Muslemanes conmoveran victimas del 9-11.

A reporter from Telemundo Atlanta came to the Georgia Tech blood drive and made a TV story about Muslims for Life. It aired on 9/11 on the Telemundo Atlanta TV station. Here is a link to the video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IvlCeiQFoBo

Ahmadiyya Muslims for Life in Meriden

Host 9/11 Memorial Blood Drive with Red Cross Ahmadiyya Muslims for life Host 9/11 Memorial Blood Drive with Red Cross in the "House of Peace, Baitul-Amn Mosque and Community Centre," in Meriden CT 06451.



Food Distribution in Zion



Khuddam and Anṣār helped Lajna Zion in distribution of food, to reach out to Zion community. Thanks to Lajna Zion for such great work.

Saeed Anjum thanked all Anṣār who come out to help and also brought their families out. May Allah bless all.

International Day of Peace Event at San Diego



On Sept 21st at Aztec Park in La Mesa, San Diego, the Interfaith Council of Las Mesa was celebrating International Day of Peace. Speakers from different religions were present, from Zoroastrians to Hindus. Islam was also present by the representation of Talha Saifi. Talha Saifi spoke for a few minutes on how Islam can establish peace. He laid in detail on how Islam can establish peace and harmony on a personal level, on a family level, and on a societal level. The speech was well received and he was asked to speak at another event in the future.

Latino Health Fair at Miami

Recently new Miami Consular General Guatemala, Miss. Rosa Maria Merida De Mora, called to discuss about our monthly Guatemala Consulate (GC) clinic and about Latino health fair medical services by Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Miami. She is an experienced, sincere and impressive personality with a deep gratitude for our humble medical services for the Guatemalan people in Miami. During the meeting, she thanked Ahmadiyya Muslim community many a times.

Old Bridge Day

On September 26th, Old Bridge Mayor's Office invited Central Jersey chapater to celebrate annual Community Day at their Municipal Complex at 1 Old Bridge Plaza Road Old Bridge NJ. Hundreds of vendors and non-profit agencies, representatives of churches and synagogues, fire fighters, EMT personnel, teachers' association, students and government officials including the mayor and councilmen attended. Our table was visited by people from all walks of life and several government officials. We distributed 50+ "Pathway to Peace" books to interested individuals. Muslims for Life, Muslims for Loyalty and Muslims for Peace flyers were also distributed. We made quite a few new contacts and invited them to Central Jersey Jamā'at and mayor sponsored thanksgiving event scheduled to take place on November 21st in Old Bridge Municipal Plaza. There were 15 Jamā'at members who participated in the program including Khuddam, Atfal, Lajna and Nasirat.

Community Outreach Opportunity in Old Bridge Township



CEJ Jamā'at members were invited to attend a 9/11 ceremony in Old Bridge. It was a well-attended ceremony with over 300 Old Bridge residents gathered to commemorate 9/11 tragedy. There were 16 Old Bridge residents who lost their lives in Twin Towers.



Our group was lead by Mr. Tariq Sharif (CEJ PA Secretary). He had a chance to chat with the guest of honor Lt Governor of NJ, Kim Guadagno, and Mayor Owen Henry, our Jamā'at's longtime friend. The Lt Governor was pleased to know about the blood drives and wanted to be kept in the loop.

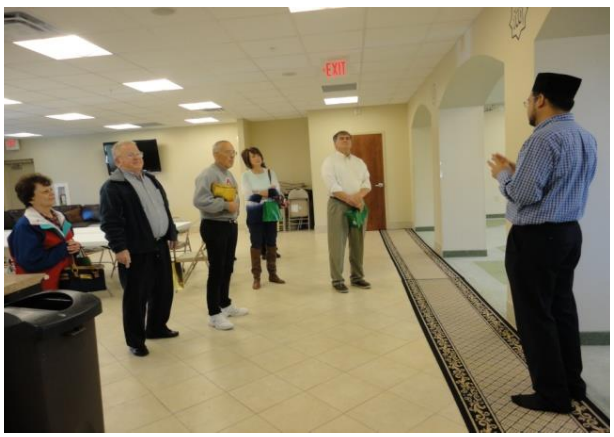
Āmīn Ceremony in Columbus, Ohio



Āmīn ceremony of Rehan Mobusher, son of Dr and Mrs. Mobusher Mahmud, was solemnized by Dr Abdul Salam Malik, President Columbus Ohio Chapter on 25th of September, 2015. He is Waqf-e-Nau and grandson of Dr Mahmud Ahmad Nagi. Dr Nagi is grandson of Ḥaḍrat Haji Muhammad Musa, the companion of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him). Dr Malik listened from Rehan few verses of Holy Qur'ān and then led silent prayer.

Congratulations to Rehan and his family. May Allah enable him to recite Qur'ān daily and practice its teachings in daily life. Āmīn.

Visitors from the Zion Lutheran Church, Dayton, Ohio



Zion Lutheran Church, Dayton paid a visit to Fazal-e-Umar Mosque, Dayton, Ohio on Oct. 14, 2015. Eight visitors came with their Pastor Rev. John Mittermaier. The guests came originally for only one hour, but their interest kept them in the mosque for two hours. They were very happy when they returned home. They asked questions specifically about the difference between Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and other Muslims. Imam Yahya Luqman conducted the meeting.



US Embassy Majuro Marshall Island

Kommol Tata Imam Joyia reported:

Political Officer Autumn Oakley met with Imam Matiullah Joyia at Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Mosque on August 4 to learn more about the history of the community and their charitable work, including the project through a Humanity First USA grant to built and repair public restrooms in Majuro.



Flea Market Booth, Dayton, Ohio

Booth is setup every weekend at the Flee Market.

__A visitor from Michigan:__ A Christian visitor came and said loudly, "You are doing a great job." I enquired what? He said that he is from Michigan and has some Muslim friends. They are nice people. He looked at the stuff on the tables and walls and appreciated our efforts. He praised Muslims in general. I asked if he has any questions. He said that he does not have any time, and will ask his friends in Michigan. I said, give me 2 minutes and I will tell you something which no other Muslim will tell you. He became interested and I told

him about the second coming of Jesus (may peace be upon him) with a little detail and offered a booklet 'Ḥaḍrat Ahmad' (may peace be upon him) and some other pamphlets. He then asked many other questions and gave telephone number of his son who is a pastor. He spent more than 10 minutes at our booth.



A Russian lady 'Medina' came to our booth and introduced herself and asked some questions and for a copy of the Holy Qur'ān in Russian.

A Mexican man visited our booth and asked for a Copy of the Spanish Holy Qur'ān. He left his contact number.

Dr. A. Q. Shahid visited our booth and also met the manager of the Flea Market and explained our blood drive arrangements nationwide to her. She liked the idea to have blood drive organized and sponsored by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.



Visit of Imam Yahya Luqman: On one Sunday Imam Yahya Luqman and Br. Ibrahim visited our booth. We had a tour of the Flea Market and visited some Muslim and non-Muslim friends.

Our neighbor opposite to our booth, who is a Muslim lady from Senegal, said that many times even when our booth is closed people come and see and take the photos of the display.

American Muslims celebrate with neighbors

Record Journal Published: August 4, 2015. Last Modified: August 13, 2015 12:18AM.

A kaleidoscope of festivities resonated the world over as roughly a quarter of humanity zestfully celebrated Eid-ul-Fitr. A Muslim holiday radiating gratitude, giving and rebirth rejoicing the consummation of worship, charity, and fasting savored amid the blessed voyage of sacred Ramadan, a pillar of Islam.

Locally in Meriden, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community lovingly opened their doors in true spirit of holy Eid to fellow Americans of every Faith and even no Faith at Baitul Aman (Abode of Peace) Masjid. The celebration was launched with spectacles of Prophet Muhammad's, peace be upon him, sublime practices; generous donations for the less fortunate called Fitrana, Salat or congregational worship, a Khutbah or address, and exchanges of love and Mubarak.

Some 250 worshipers prayed moving in unison behind one leader who heart-stirringly chanted the Holy Qur'ān. A quickening entreaty delivered by the African American prayer leader to not only sustain the elevated reformation and nearness to the Divine won via the month-long training but also actively combat radicalization, violence, and injustice followed. A heartfelt Eid Mubarak wishing everyone the felicitations of the jubilant and resurrecting day closed the oration. Recognition plaques for scholastic advancements were awarded by Manzur Mannan, the community's Education secretary, Dr. Mahmood Qureshi, President of AMC, CT, and Ahmad Jamal a Muslim American Jazz artist. Multicultural dishes were savored at a reserved park neighboring the Mosque where also a rejuvenating array of sports was enjoyed. Two bridge-building Christian friends, including respected Win Smith Jr., VP of the Milford Rotary and his mother, joined the philanthropic Muslims in merriment.

Mirza Masroor Ahmad the Khalīfah or Successor of Islam and the Prophesied Messiah, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian: Zahir Mannan, a husband and father of two toddlers. He is a previously elected Youth Auxiliary President, Interfaith Outreach Director, Holy Qur'ān Education and Temporary Devotion Director, Youth Auxiliary Publication Director for the Connecticut Chapter of the USA Branch.

Jami'a Camp 2015

Report by: Qasid Bhinder (A student of Jamia Canada)

Alhamdulillah, another Jami'a Orientation Camp was held successfully, at Bait-ul-Hadi mosque in Central New Jersey - a fitting venue as it is home to two Jami'a students and numerous future prospects inshaAllah.

The camp was held from August 1 to August 13th. A group of American Jamia students headed by Principal Maulana Shamshad Nasir Sahib conducted the camp as mentors, teachers, referees, friends, and older brothers.

The goal of the camp was simple to have the participants of the camp experience and ultimately understand a day in the life of a Jami'a student. Participants would begin the day at 5:10 for Fajr Salaat followed by independent recitation of the Holy Qur'ān. Afterwards, participants had ample time to nap or get ready for the day after which breakfast was served at 7:00 AM. Classes would begin at 8:00 AM, which included Qur'ān translation, Arabic, Urdu, Aḥādīth, History of Islam, and Fiqh, taught by the Jami'a-students. Classes would proceed until 11:00 AM where participants would have a half hour break for snacks and rest and then continue again at 11:30 AM. Classes would end at 1:30 PM followed by Zuhr Prayers. Lunch would then be served at 1:45 PM with different items on the menu including cold cut sub sandwiches, roast chicken, Biryani, and pasta. After lunch, participants would have free time to socialize, play games, rest and catch up on their homework for the day until Asr prayer at 5:00 PM after which the period for sports began. Many organized sports were played including soccer, volleyball, basketball, football, and races, all refereed by the Jami'a- students. Sports would be played until 8:30 PM where participants would break for Maghrib prayer followed by attendance and announcements. Immediately following Maghrib prayer students would break into their groups and proceed to cleaning duties. Each day after Maghrib prayer the entire mosque was cleaned including the bathrooms, prayer halls, the kitchen area, and the outside area. After cleaning duties the students retreated for Isha prayer at 9:30 PM followed by tutorial groups. These tutorial groups were divided by age group and were distributed between four Jamia students. The groups would talk about any issue that they wanted to, whether it be a basic religious knowledge question or over any social issues they were facing. Soon after, participants would prepare for bed and lights would be turned off at 11:30 PM.

However, just like in Jami'a, the camp was not all studies as the participants were given the opportunity to take a break from the books and go on an adventurous, thrill-filled day at Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson, NJ - home to the tallest, fastest roller coaster in the world. Participants arrived at the gates at 10:00 AM and broke into groups headed by Jami'a students and enjoyed the park until 9 PM. All participants took a break around 2 PM to read Zuhr and do lunch in the parking lot outside the park. The groups then broke up into the same groups and headed back to the park for more rides and fun until it was time to head back to the mosque. On the last day of the camp a farewell meeting was also held and in which Imam Shamshad gave the advice to all. "Whatever they have learned they should increase their knowledge." Imam Shamshad stressed that we should keep in our mind all the time; the purpose of the coming of Promised Messiah. His main purpose was to establish our relationship with God all-mighty. Imam also told the students that as a devotee, they must be regular in prayers and establish a relationship with Allah. Moreover, they should have complete trust in Allah for all their affairs.

All in all, by the grace of Allah, the Jami'a Orientation Camp was a huge success. It was enjoyed not only by the participants of the camp but by the Jami'a students, organizers, and volunteers alike. This would not have been the success without the help of innumerable volunteers and the support of the organizers including Hafiz Samiullah Chaudhry Sahib, Shamshad Ahmad Nasir Sahib and Hammad Malik Sahib. May Allah accept the efforts put forth by all those who were a part of the camp and bless the mission to spread the message of the Promised Messiah to the corners of the Earth. Ameen!

Visit of the Little Home Church, Wayne, IL

Report by Nadeem Raza Chicago

Little Home Church is situated on a quiet and peaceful location in Wayne, IL. Ahmadiyya Muslim Community from Chicago was invited to Little Home Church for an interfaith meeting on Sunday, October 25, 2015.



Dr. David Russel - a Pastor organized this event. This was in response to another interfaith meeting held earlier in Ahmadiyya mosque Glen Ellyn, IL. Pastor David and his people got rich experience of Ahmdiyya Muslim Community during that visit. They expressed their wish to welcome Ahmadi Muslims in their church. More than fifty Ahmadi Muslims men, women and children participated in interfaith meeting. They were warmly welcomed and observed the Sunday prayer service led by David Russel and Imam Shamshad.

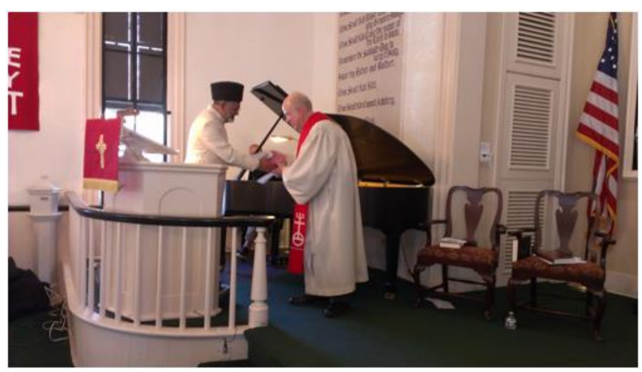


The Interfaith event started after prayer service at the church. Imam Shamshad A. Nasir and Pastor David Russel greeted the audience on behalf of their communities and emphasized to get closer by bridge building through dialogues to resolve misunderstandings.

Pastor David Russel in his address also focused on to go for commonalities and not to drag in to differences. We all have one God and have same destination though we have different paths to that destiny.



Imam Shamshad, in his own special way focused on the action, not to orally claim for the beliefs but to practice the divine teachings. Imam also draws the attention of the audience towards what's happening in the name of freedom in the western world. He, in a convincing way, told that when one has certain limits while in his own home & city and not supposed to cross the boundaries to interfere with neighbors against their wish, **how any religion can permit to draw abusive caricatures of the prophet Muhammad (PBUH)?** Imam explained peaceful Islamic teachings to all and invited them to read the Holy Qur'ān and life of Prophet Mohammad peace be on him, that way we will be able to build the bridge between communities and attain the peace.



Imam presented book "The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam" to Dr. David Russel.

Imam Shamshad, as liked by the audience, gave two presentations about Islamic point of view in this interfaith meeting. He told that Ahmadiyya community has reached to 206 countries in the world. He also explained about major difference between Sunni and

Shia Muslims in response to a question from one of the audience.



The participants from both faiths mingled after the prayer service. Three groups were formed as following:

1) Worship and Prayer

2) Holy Day and Holiday

3) Role of Women



Interesting discussions took place in all the three groups where everyone was free to speak with his own religious perspective on the topics. Imam also mentioned about the meaning of worship in Islam in this group discussion.

This group discussion event also proved very successful to resolve misunderstandings about Islam.

The Ahmadiyya delegation presented two copies of the Holy Qur'ān and other Ahmadiyya Muslim literature to the church including 12 copies of World Crisis and the Pathway to Peace, a compilation of speeches and letters of His Holiness Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Imam and Head of the Worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.



The interfaith meeting was followed by a lunch. All the participants really enjoyed this colorful event. Overall event remained another success for the Ahmadiyya community. A female from the church people got so emotional that she stood up and openly shared her views that one assumes that people from the other faith are bad and wrong but sitting together and having discussions proves that they are not.

Your Sources for Literature on Islam

Books for personal use

Order books for personal use with credit card or check from amibookstore.us. There are no shipping charges!

Books and flyers for free distribution

Email material@muslimsforpeace.org to get free copies of flyers and books "World Crisis" and "Life of Muhammad."

Books for library, free distribution, exhibition or sale

Chapter officers can order the books they need for chapter libraries, sale or distribution from amibookstore.us.

For international customers

store.alislam.org

Old copies of the Review of Religions for free distribution

Email usa@reviewofreligions.org.

Special issues of the Muslim Sunrise for outreach

Look for special issues on amibookstore.us or email info@muslimsunrise.com

DVDs for Ahmadiyya Videos

Contact publications@ahmadiyya.us

Your source for DVDs for playing on local community access channels: publications@ahmadiyya.us

Frequently Asked Questions: Waqf ‘Ārḍī in Merida, Mexico

1. Best suggested air route: Book a flight to Merida International Airport. Best route will likely be through Houston.

2. Address of Mission house in Merida: Calle 60, No. 453A x 51, Centro, Merida, Yucatan CP 97000 Mexico

3. Who to inform in Merida of my intended arrival/itinerary: noman.rana@ahmadiyya.us

4. Noman’s contact info: cell: 999-129-4594; Mission House: 999-924- 2222

5. What not to bring to Mexico: Same stuff you should not travel with anywhere.

6. On Landing Card, enter purpose of visit: Tourist/Personal

7. Do not purchase any SIM card at the airport. If you have to make a call, use your US cell phone it will likely cost you 99 cents a minute.

8. What is the project?

a. Support the Tabligh work being done in Merida, Mexico principally by helping in distribution of flyers and helping train the new Ahmadis learn reading of Holy Qur’ān and Salat.

9. Why should you do it?

a. To win the pleasure of Allah by helping take the message of Islam-Ahmadiyyat to a continent still almost entirely bereft of this knowledge of in compliance with the wishes of the Khalīfatul-Masīḥ.

10. What will you gain?

a. Inspiration

b. Rejuvenation of your faith

c. Blessing of Allah

d. Prayers of all the new converts

e. Increased knowledge of Spanish language

f. Firsthand experience in Mexico

11. What to do before you come?

a. You should plan on volunteering for at minimum one week and up to one month.

b. You should be ready to for 12-14 hours a day of volunteer work.

c. The temperature ranges from 80-110 °F.

d. Google Merida and learn about the city, learn the map, etc.

e. Learn some basic words and phrases in Spanish.

f. Know the address and main phone number.

12. What you need to bring?

a. $10-$15 per day for your pocket money (do not convert)

b. Light comfortable clothing

c. Comfortable shoes. You will walk 2-3 miles a day.

d. Hat and sunscreen: It will be very hot and sunny.

13. What will your duties be when you come?

a. Distribute flyers in the morning and afternoon every day, 2,000 daily.

b. Teach new Ahmadis reading of Holy Qur’ān.

c. Teach new Ahmadis Ṣalat.

d. Help with general duties at mosque/mission house.

e. Assist with other various duties to do with running of mosque/mission house.

14. What should you NOT do when you reach Mexico?

a. Go off anywhere without knowledge of and consulting local missionary.

b. Start criticizing local new Ahmadis without getting briefed by local missionary of the exact situation of each new Ahmadi.

c. Go off on your own splitting off from the group while giving out flyers.

d. Do not at any time become careless with your whereabouts and surroundings.

e. Engage in any critical debates with anyone.

f. Disrespect anyone or disobey the local laws and customs.

Waqf ‘Ārḍī Application Instructions:

Waqf ‘Ārḍī (وقف عارضی) in Mexico consists of an exciting Tabligh plan to convey the message of Aḥmadiyya Islam to the people of Mexico.

We plan on using every mean possible, which include distributing flyers, open houses, lectures, media, billboards, and social media.

The airfare varies, and you will need perhaps $150 cash for food and drink for a period of one week to ten days stay. Accommodation will be provided.

If you are interested, please complete the “Application for Waqf ‘Ārḍī in Merida, Mexico” form here: https://docs.google.com/a/ahmadiyya.us/forms/d/1Fh8XsOtSx87FVn2-KFerTaKXDO530wTmg6Pe5I-brRk/viewform and submit as soon as possible.

Iron Gates of Derbent

Latif Ahmed, Phoenix AZ

And they ask thee about Dhu'l Qarnain. Say, 'I will certainly recite to you *something* of his story.' ... Until, when he reached the place between the two mountains, he found beneath them a people who would scarcely understand a word. They said, 'O Dhu'l Qarnain, verily, Gog and Magog are creating disorder in the earth; shall we then pay thee tribute on condition that thou set up a barrier between us and them?' He replied, 'The power with which my Lord has endowed me about this is better, but you may help me with physical strength; I will set up between you and them a rampart. 'Bring me blocks of iron.' They did so till, when he had leveled up the space between the two mountain sides, he said, '*Now* blow with your bellows.' *They blew* till, when he had made it *red as* fire, he said, 'Bring me molten copper that I may pour it thereon.' So they (Gog and Magog) were not able to scale it, nor were they able to dig through it. Thereupon he said, 'This is a mercy from my Lord. But when the promise of my Lord shall come to pass, He will break it into pieces. And the promise of my Lord is certainly true.' And on that day We shall leave some of them to surge against others, and the trumpet will be blown. Then shall We gather them all together. And on that day We shall present Hell, face to face, to the disbelievers— Whose eyes were under a veil so as not to *heed* My warning, and they could not even hear." [18 Al-Kahf : 84-102]

The "Later Days," a Qur'ānic phrase used in Sūrah Jumu'ah, is the age of second coming of Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in form of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him). This age is also the time of rise of Christian nations and their ascension to glory and grandeur a second time. Divine scriptures describe this phenomenon as the rise of Gog and Magog who are linked to Dhu'l Qarnain by Holy Qur'ān in form of Divine prophecy that their rise will be the time of Promise Messiah(may peace be upon him) who will be the Dhu'l Qarnain of his time and defeat of Gog and Magog will take place at his hand. It is common Qur'ānic custom that event taken place at one time are used as a metaphor for another. In the commentary of Sūrah Kahf, where the story of Dhu'l Qarnain is laid out, Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ II (may Allah be pleased with him) has given beautiful explanation of the events taking place at the time of the first Dhu'l Qarnain. Many Muslim scholars and western historians have presented Alexander, the Greek King, as Dhu'l Qarnain. But Khalīfatul Masīḥ II (may Allah be pleased with him) has provided intellectual and historical arguments, due to lack or archeological proof, that Dhu'l Qarnain, builder of the Iron Wall of Derbent in fact was Cyrus, the King of Persia.



Then in 599 BC, Cyrus came to power in a small Persian kingdom and, in a matter of twenty years, conquered all of Persia and the mighty Babylonian Empire. After the fall of Babylon, Cyrus allowed the Jews to return to their homeland. These Jews had been exiled since Babylon conquered the southern kingdom of Judah in 586 BC, during the time of Prophet Jeremiah.



Cyrus founded the Achaemenid dynasty which ruled the greatest empire the world had then known. He adopted Zoroastrianism as the state religion, spreading it in the entire kingdom. Some of the great kings of this dynasty include Darius (522 486 BC), Xerxes (486 465 BC), and Artaxerxes (465 424 BC). The Achaemenid Empire was eventually brought to an end in 331 BC by Alexander the Great or, as he is known in the Persian history, Alexander the Vandal.

The Jews fared well in exile. Most of them were employed on public works in central Babylonia and

many among them eventually gained their freedom and rose to influential positions. Their faith and religious devotion were renewed; the literature of the kingdom was studied, re-edited, and adapted to the needs of the reviving community, and the hope of restoration to Palestine was preached and cherished. About 545 B.C., this aspiration took a more definite form. Cyrus, King of Media and Persia, had by this time attained to dominion over the whole uplands of Asia as far as the shores of the Aegean Sea. The Jews made a secret agreement with him and helped him to conquer Babylon. The city surrendered to his army without any resistance in July, 539 B. C. As a reward for their services Cyrus permitted the Jews to return to their country, and also helped them in the rebuilding of the Temple. In 538 B. C. Cyrus proclaimed the rebuilding of the Temple as his divine mission but the work was not started till the following year (Historians' History of the World, vol. II, p. 126; Jew. Enc., vol. 7, under Jerusalem, Enc. Bib., under Cyrus and 2 Chronicles 36: 22, 23). The Judean, Sheshbazzar (a Governor under Cyrus) brought back to the Temple vessels which Nebuchadnezzar had carried away and prepared to undertake the work at the expense of the royal purse. A large body of exiles returned to Jerusalem (Ezra 1: 3-5). The work of rebuilding the Temple steadily progressed and it was completed in 516 B.C. (Jew. Enc., vol. 7, under Jerusalem).

Gog and Magog and Iron Gates of Derbent

In the Revelation to John (20:7–10), the names Gog and Magog are applied to the evil forces that will join with Satan in the great struggle at the end of time. After Satan has been bound and chained for 1,000 years, he will be released and will rise up against God; he will go forth and deceive the nations of the world—Gog and Magog—gathering them together in great numbers to attack the saints and Jerusalem, the city God loves. God will send fire from heaven to destroy them and will then preside over the Last Judgment.



The biblical passages concerning Gog and Magog became the focus of later exegetes, who made repeated attempts to associate them with specific individuals and places. Gog has been identified by modern scholars with Gyges, a 7th-century BC king of Lydia, and with the Akkadian god Gaga; and it has also been argued that the name Magog is derived from an Akkadian word meaning "the land of Gyges." In the 1st century CE the Jewish historian Josephus claimed that Gog and Magog were the Scythians, and in the 5th and 6th centuries they were held to be the Huns. Gog and Magog were equated with the Magyars in the 10th century and with the entire Muslim world. In both Jewish and Christian apocalyptic writings and other works, they were also identified with the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel.

One of the most important legends associated with Gog and Magog was that of Alexander's Gate, said to have been built by Alexander the Great to imprison these uncivilized and barbaric people until the end of time. In medieval legends of Antichrist and the Last Emperor, Gog and Magog were allied with the armies of Satan. And in various prophetic texts, Gog and Magog participated in the persecutions led by Antichrist, preceded Antichrist as a sign of his coming, or emerged following the defeat of Antichrist in the struggle prior to the Last Judgment. According to Joachim of Fiore, a Calabrian abbot and theologian, Gog is the "Final Antichrist." In Joachim's view, Gog will come just before the Last Judgment but only after the defeat of an earlier antichrist and a period of millennial peace.



An independent legend of Gog and Magog surrounds two colossal wooden effigies in the Guildhall, London. They are thought to represent two giants who were taken to London to serve as porters at the gate of the royal palace after their race was destroyed by Brutus the Trojan, the legendary founder of London (Troia Nova, or New Troy). Effigies of Gog and Magog have existed in London from the time of Henry V (reigned 1413–22). The first figures were destroyed in the Great Fire (1666) and were replaced in 1708. The second pair

was destroyed in a German air raid in 1940 and again replaced in 1953.

In the legends recounted by the medieval English historian Geoffrey of Monmouth, Gogmagog, or Goëmagot, was a giant chieftain of Cornwall who was slain by Brutus's companion Corineus.

Pass Thru Caucasus Mountain Range and Great Wall of Gorgan in Iran

There are two crossing of the Caucasus mountain range (north to south), the Darial Pass and the Derbent Pass, and both have been long fortified — at least since 150 BC. The Darial gorge on the border between Russia and Georgia is at the east base of Mount Kazbek, pierced by the river Terek and is located south of present-day Vladikavkaz. It is known in native legendary and song as "The Pass of Israel." Ruins of an ancient fortress are still visible. The pass served as a hub point for many roads connecting North and South Caucasus and remained open for traffic for most of its existence.

The Derbent Pass is the narrow region at the southeast corner of the Caspian Sea, where city Present day city of Derbent is situated. It is here Alexander actually marched in the pursuit of Bessus, although he did not stop to fortify it. It was transferred to the passes through the Caucasus, on the other side of the Caspian, by the more fanciful historians of Alexander.

The Great Wall of Gorgan is located at a geographic narrowing between the Caspian Sea and the mountains of northeastern Iran. It is one of several Caspian Gates at the eastern part of a region known in antiquity as Hyrcania, on the nomadic route from the northern steppes to the Iranian heartland.



These three historical fortifications clearly show the strategy utilized by Persian Rulers to protect against invaders from the north. It is illogical to assume that Alexander, who was in hot pursuit of his enemies and at the same time busy quelling uprisings amongst his own army had enough time to fortify a certain region which was not advantageous to his own mission.

Derbent occupies the narrow gateway between the Caspian Sea and the Caucasus Mountains connecting the Eurasian steppes to the north and the Iranian Plateau to the south. Its etymology derives from the Persian *Darband* (دربند), meaning "locked gate and it is often identified with the legendary Gates of Alexander, being known in Arabic as *Bāb al Abwab* ("Gate of Gates") and Turkish as *Demirkapı* ("Iron Gate"). Derbent claims to be the oldest city in Russia (8th century BCE). Since antiquity, the value of the area as the gate to the Caucasus has been understood, and Derbent has archaeological structures over 5,000 years old. As a result of this geographic particularity, the city developed between two walls, stretching from the mountains to the sea. These fortifications were continuously employed for a millennium and a half, longer than any other extant fortress in the world. Over the years, different nations gave the city different names, but all connected to the word gate; its name in Persian is Darband, which means "closed gates."

Derbent's location on a narrow, three-kilometer strip of land between the Caspian Sea and the Caucasus mountains is strategic in the Caucasus. Historically, this position allowed the rulers of Derbent to control land traffic between the Eurasian Steppe and the Middle East. The only other practicable crossing of the Caucasus ridge was over the Darial Gorge.

The first intensive settlement in the Derbent area dates from the 8th century BCE; the site was intermittently controlled by the Persian monarchs, starting from the 6th century BCE. Until the 4th century CE, it was part of Caucasian Albania and is traditionally identified with Albana, the capital. The modern name is a Persian word (دربند Darband) meaning "gateway," which came into use in the end of the 5th or the beginning of the 6th century CE, when the city was re-established by Kavadh I of the Sassanid dynasty of Persia.

The 20-meter (66 ft) high walls with thirty north-looking towers are believed to belong to the time of Kavadh's son, Khosrau I. Some say that the level of the Caspian was formerly higher and that the lowering of the water level opened an invasion route that had to be fortified. [10] The chronicler Movses Kagankatvatsi wrote about "the wondrous walls, for whose construction the Persian kings exhausted our country, recruiting architects and collecting building materials with a view of constructing a great edifice stretching between the Caucasus Mountains and the Great Eastern Sea." Derbent became a strong military outpost and harbor of the Sassanid Empire. During the 5th and 6th

centuries, Derbent also became an important center for spreading the Christian faith in the Caucasus.



Movses Kagankatvatsi left a graphic description of the sack of Derbent by the hordes of Tong Yabghu of the Western Turkic Khaganate in 627. His successor, Böri Shad, proved unable to consolidate Tong Yabghu's conquests, and the city was retaken by the Persians. In 654, Derbent was captured by the Arabs, who transformed it into an important administrative center and introduced Islam to the area. Because of its strategic position on the northern branch of the Silk Route, the fortress was contested by the Khazars in the course of the Khazar-Arab Wars. The Sassanids had also brought Armenians from Syunik to help protect the pass from invaders; as Arab rule weakened in the region at the end of the ninth century; the Armenians living there were able to establish a kingdom of their own, which lasted until the early years of the thirteenth century.

Excavations on the eastern side of the Caspian Sea, opposite to Derbent, revealed the Great Wall of Gorgan, the eastern counterpart to the wall and fortifications of Derbent. Similar Sassanian defensive fortifications there—massive forts, garrison towns, long walls—also run from the sea to the mountains.

The Caliph Harun al-Rashid lived in Derbent and brought it into great repute as a seat of the arts and commerce. According to Arab historians, Derbent, with population exceeding 50,000, was the largest city of the 9th century Caucasus. In the 10th century, with the collapse of the Arab Caliphate, Derbent became the capital of an emirate. This emirate often fought losing wars with the neighboring Christian state of Sarir, allowing Sarir to occasionally manipulate Derbent politics. Despite that, the emirate outlived its rival and continued to flourish at the time of the Mongol invasion in 1239.

In the 14th century, Derbent was occupied by Timur's armies. In 1437, it fell under the control of the Shirvanshahs of Azerbaijan. Conquered by Shah Ismail of Iran during the 16th century, and while occasionally briefly taken by the Ottoman Turks such as in 1583 after the Battle of Torches and the Treaty of Istanbul, Derbent stayed under intermittent Persian suzerainty till the early 19th century.

Being briefly taken by the Russians under Peter the Great during the Persian expedition of (1722-23) by Peter the Great, the 1735 Treaty of Ganja formedby Imperial Russia and Afsharid Persia, forced Russia to return Derbent and its mighty bastion back to Persia. In 1747, Derbent became the capital of the Derbent Khanate of the same name.

During the Persian Expedition of 1796, Derbent was stormed by Russian forces under Valerian Zubov. As a consequence of the Treaty of Gulistan of 1813—between Russian and Persia—Derbent became part of the Russian.



A large portion of the walls and several watchtowers still remain in reasonable shape. The walls, reaching to the sea, date from the 6th century, Sassanid dynasty period. The city has a well-preserved citadel (Narin-kala), enclosing an area of 4.5 hectares (11 acres), enclosed by strong walls. Historical attractions include the baths, the cisterns, the old cemeteries, the caravanserai, the 18th-century Khan's mausoleum, as well as several mosques. The oldest mosque is the Juma Mosque, built over a 6th-century Christian basilica; it has a 15th-century madrassa. Other shrines include the 17th-century Kyrhlyar mosque, the Bala mosque and the 18th-century Chertebe mosque.

How did Muslims abandon Qur'ānic-teachings?

Sahibzada Tahir Latif

It is a universally acknowledged fact that after a passage of time all religions lose their influence because the believers either distort, change the original teachings or adopt new beliefs. As a result, people are misled to judge the teachings by conduct and practices of their followers. This has happened in all the great faiths of the world including Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam. But there is one exception in the entire history of religions and that is that the Holy Book of Islam, the Qur'ān, has not suffered a smallest change since its revelation. These words of God were revealed to Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) 1500 years ago over a period of 23 years. It was being memorized by a few believers as it was revealed to the Prophet. Not a single sentence, a single word or even an iota has changed in 1500 years, and hundreds of thousands of believers have been memorizing it ever since it was revealed to the Prophet.

Let me present a few commandments from the Holy Book before addressing the topic. God Almighty states:

تِلْكَ آيَاتُ الْكِتَابِ الْحَكِيمِ - هُدًى وَرَحْمَةً لِلْمُحْسِنِينَ

"These are verses of the Perfect Book which is full of wisdom, and is guidance and mercy for those who discharge their obligations." [31 (Luqmān) : 3-4]

The Qur'ān also tells us that God Almighty has sent divine spiritual guidance to all mankind in the past. As the spiritual condition of mankind deteriorates God sends divine reformer for their guidance to bring human beings back to one God, to worship Him and to obey His commandment.

God Almighty states:

يَا بَنِي آدَمَ إِمَّا يَأْتِيَنَّكُمْ رُسُلٌ مِنْكُمْ يَقُصُّونَ عَلَيْكُمْ آيَاتِي
فَمَنِ اتَّقَى وَأَصْلَحَ فَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ

"O Children of Adam! If messenger come to you from among yourselves, rehearsing my Signs unto you, then whoso shall fear God and do good deeds, on them shall come no fear nor shall they grieve." [7 (Al-Araf):36]

Here Allah has described a general principle about the sending of messengers. It must, however, be noted that it is not about the coming of the past messengers. The Qur'ān was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) for the guidance of mankind of his and the future generations.

There is also special assurance from God on guidance in the Qur'ān when human beings need it God must provide it. The guidance is God's own responsibility not shared by anyone else. Allah says:

إِنَّ عَلَيْنَا لَلْهُدَى

"Verily it is for us to guide" [92 (Al-Lail):13]

The Qur'ān also tells us that spiritual guidance is necessary from time to time.

The Qur'ān has unique literary excellence and has comprehensive teachings. This revealed book is in a living language whereas the languages of other faiths are either dead or they are not used. It supports its teaching with reason and explanation. Whosoever reads and ponders over it with an open mind will understand the straight forward teachings. There is a beautiful challenge in the book. Allah says:

أَفَلَا يَتَدَبَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ وَلَوْ كَانَ مِنْ عِنْدِ غَيْرِ اللَّهِ لَوَجَدُوا فِيهِ
اخْتِلَافًا كَثِيرًا

"Will they not, then, meditate upon the Qur'ān? Had it been from anyone other than Allah they would surely have found therein much contradictions." [4 (Al-Nisa) : 83]

In this connection, a brief comment about the believers of Bible is being provided here. Works of American bible scholars like Burton Mack, John D. Crossan, Russell Shorto, B. D. Ehrman and A. T. Robinson are enlightening writing on Gospels. American Bible experts researched and discovered that Bible is filled with discrepancies, many of them irreconcilable contradictions. A lot of discrepancies, inconsistencies are found in the New Testament. They also discovered that many of the traditional Christian doctrines that have long been held to be beyond question, such as the Doctrine of the divinity of Christ and the Trinity, were not present in the earliest traditions of the New Testament but had developed over time and have moved away from the original teachings of Jesus and his apostles. (For more details on this subject, please read my article "A close look at the Bible" published in combined issue of May and June, 2013 of Ahmadiyya Gazette.")

A grand prophesy of the Qur'ān must be presented here. Allah says:

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ

"Surely, we ourselves have sent down this Exhortation, and we will most surely safeguard it." [15 (Al-Hijr):10]

What a great prophesy? Over the past fifteen hundred years there is no change in this Holy book. Hundreds and thousands of believers have been memorizing this Book. God Almighty took this responsibility as this is a perfect, dynamic and complete book for the guidance of mankind for all ages.

Despite the fact that Muslims and their Ulema (scholars) believe in Qur'ān they have developed erroneous view based on some Aḥādīth which are totally contradictory to Qur'ānic-teachings and thus abandoned the Holy Qur'ān.

Let me briefly mention here the 1953 disturbances in Pakistan when these Ulema incited other Muslims to torture and kill innocent Ahmadi Muslims, and burnt their belongings. To control the situation the Government of Pakistan imposed Martial Law in Lahore. Later the Government set up an inquiry commission headed by justice Munir and justice Kayani. During questions answers the so-called Ulema declared that

(1) The punishment of apostasy in Islam is death sentence

(2) Jihad by sword is a religious responsibility of every Muslim

(3) That the Land of Islam (Darul-Islam) is at perpetual war with Non-Muslim neighbor who must be defeated by Jihad or by treaty

(4) That Non-Muslims in a Muslim country do not have the same rights as Muslims

On the subject of apostasy, if we look at the teaching of the Qur'ān, Allah says:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا ثُمَّ كَفَرُوا ثُمَّ آمَنُوا ثُمَّ كَفَرُوا ثُمَّ ازْدَادُوا
كُفْرًا لَمْ يَكُنِ اللَّهُ لِيَغْفِرَ لَهُمْ وَلَا لِيَهْدِيَهُمْ سَبِيلًا

"Those who believe, then disbelieve, then again believe, then disbelieve and go on increasing in disbelief, Allah will never forgive them." [4 (Al-Nisā):138]

The above verse is a striking pronouncement and is conclusive against the thesis that an apostate must lose his life immediately after his defection from the faith. The verse visualizes repeated apostasies and reversions to the faith without mention of any punishment for any of these defections on this earth. There is absolutely no punishment for apostasy in the Qur'ān. The only punishment for apostasy in the verse is postponed to the Hereafter. So the Muslims have clearly ignored the Qur'ānic-teaching.

Muslim scholars like Mr. Maududi ignores the Qur'ānic-teachings about apostasy and supports some weak Aḥādīth about apostasy which are rejected by most eminent Muslim scholars due to serious flaws in the reliability of these Aḥādīth. One Example of such a case would be when Governor of Yemen Munaz beheaded a Jew who became a Muslim and thus an apostate. According to one Aḥādīth, the Jew was beheaded upon Munaz's instruction. In the second Aḥādīth, Munaz himself beheaded the Jew. If such fundamental differences occur in a key incident, the authenticity of such a Aḥādīth becomes questionable. It should be remembered that these Aḥādīth were three to four centuries after the advent of Islam. Another Egyptian scholar's opinion, named Sayyid Qutb, is that he expresses the main reason for punishing an apostate in these words: "Islam is not merely a religion but also a nationality and rebellion against it would mean deprivation of this nationality. For such an act would be treachery and change from citizenship to enmity. The apostate causes others to imagine that Islam is lacking in goodness and thus prevents them from accepting it. Consequently he commits an offence. A disbeliever if he sticks to his disbelief is excusable in the eyes of people. But after he has been introduced to Islam and has been united with his Maker, what is the excuse? Sayyid Qutb says in Fi Zizlal al-Qur'ān." This is obviously a ridiculous reasoning. This kind of reasoning fails to convince the modern mind which is conditioned by rationalism. Islam being a Deen al-Fiṭrah, the religion of nature, would favor rational thinking. And this opinion is totally contradictory to the teaching in Qur'ān. Islam must stand on the excellence of its own teachings, but with a concept of death penalty for apostates it will be impossible for the believers to convince others of Islam's superiority.

Now a few words briefly about Jihad. The Ulema encourage Muslims to carry out Jihad as a religious duty. So their followers engage in violence, terrorism and torture mostly in Muslim countries i.e. in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Syria, and Iraq. These Jehadists are killing other Muslim men, women, children, and people of other faiths. The Qur'ān does not allow such Jihad. Prophet Mohammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said that the major Jihad is to purify one's inner self. Islam means peace and tolerance and it does not condone any kind of

terrorism. The whole world is watching this barbarism on TVs and reading in newspapers about the horrible and heinous crimes and gets wrong perception of Islam.

The Qur'ān has a great commandment on the subject of killing innocent human being and on violence. Allah says:

مَنْ قَتَلَ نَفْسًا بِغَيْرِ نَفْسٍ أَوْ فَسَادٍ فِي الأَرْضِ فَكَأَنَّمَا قَتَلَ
النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا وَمَنْ أَحْيَاهَا فَكَأَنَّمَا أَحْيَا النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا
وَلَقَدْ جَاءَتْهُمْ رُسُلُنَا بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ ثُمَّ إِنَّ كَثِيرًا مِنْهُمْ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ فِي
الأَرْضِ لَمُسْرِفُونَ

"Whosoever kills a person, except for killing another person, or for creating a disorder in the land, it shall be as if he had killed all mankind, and whoso helps one to live, it shall be as if he had given life to all mankind." [5 (Al-Mā'idah):33]

One begins to wonder how the Muslims can ignore this great commandment of the Qur'ān. Prophet Mohammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) also has a wonderful saying that "A Muslim is someone who does not hurt anyone by his tongue or by his hand."

The Qur'ān has clear and strong prohibitions of disorder and violence in many places. The Qur'ān illustrates clear commandment about violence:

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ آمِنُوا كَمَا آمَنَ النَّاسُ قَالُوا أَنُؤْمِنُ كَمَا آمَنَ
السُّفَهَاءُ أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ هُمُ السُّفَهَاءُ وَلَكِنْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

"When it is said to them: Create no disorder in the land, they reply: We are only seeking to promote peace." [2 (Al-Baqarah) :12]

The terrorists are making millions of young, old, Men, women, children to suffer as they have lost their loved ones, lost their homes, have become immigrants in a foreign countries. Islam does not advocate violence, bloodshed, destruction and disorder.

Another sad fact is that the Muslims have denied freedom of religion in Muslim countries which is contradictory to the Qur'ānic -teachings. It is shameful that Muslims and believers of other faiths have freedom of religion in Western countries including U.S.A., but believers of other faiths have no freedom of religion in Muslim countries. God Almighty addresses the Holy Prophet:

قُلِ الْحَقُّ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ فَمَنْ شَاءَ فَلْيُؤْمِنْ وَمَنْ شَاءَ فَلْيَكْفُرْ إِنَّا
أَعْتَدْنَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ نَارًا أَحَاطَ بِهِمْ سُرَادِقُهَا وَإِنْ يَسْتَغِيثُوا
يُغَاثُوا بِمَاءٍ كَالْمُهْلِ يَشْوِي الْوُجُوهَ بِئْسَ الشَّرَابُ وَسَاءَتْ
مُرْتَفَقًا

"Proclaim: This is the truth from your Lord, then let him who will, believe, and let him who will, disbelieve." [18 (Al-Kahf):30]

So the Qur'ān conveys this truth to all mankind that everyone is free to choose his faith. The amazing and disturbing fact is that Christians allow freedom of conscience and religion in their countries, but Muslims in their countries do not. Then there is the most important verse which contains a charter of freedom of conscience which has no parallel in all other religious teachings. Allah says:

لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ
وَيُؤْمِنْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَى لَا انْفِصَامَ لَهَا
وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ

"There shall be no compulsion in matters of religion, for guidance and error have been clearly distinguished." [2(Al-Baqarah):257]

It is with deep regret to say that Muslim Ulema are maligning the Islamic faith as they ignore the above teaching. There are many verses on this subject in the Qur'ān. At another place, the Qur'ān states:

وَلَوْ شَاءَ رَبُّكَ لَآمَنَ مَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ كُلُّهُمْ جَمِيعًا أَفَأَنْتَ تُكْرِهُ
النَّاسَ حَتَّى يَكُونُوا مُؤْمِنِينَ

"If thy Lord had enforced His Will, surely all those on the earth would have believed, without exception, will thou (Mohammad), then, take it upon thyself to force people to become believers." [10 (Yūnus) : 100]

This verse makes it perfectly clear that God does not force human being to believe although He has the power to do so. Similarly in many verses the Qur'ān makes clear statements along those lines about the duty of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). The following verses tell us that the Holy prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) would not force any one to believe in Islam. Only a few verses are given below, although many such verses are there in the Qur'ān.

مَا عَلَى الرَّسُولِ إِلَّا الْبَلَاغُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تُبْدُونَ وَمَا تَكْتُمُونَ

"The Messenger's duty is only to convey our message, and Allah knows your overt actions, as well as your secret designs." [5 (Al-Mā'idah) : 100]

Then again Allah says:

يَا أَيُّهَا الرَّسُولُ بَلِّغْ مَا أُنْزِلَ إِلَيْكَ مِنْ رَبِّكَ وَإِنْ لَمْ تَفْعَلْ فَمَا
بَلَّغْتَ رِسَالَتَهُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْصِمُكَ مِنَ النَّاسِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي
الْقَوْمَ الْكَافِرِينَ

"O Messenger, proclaim widely that which has been sent down to thee from thy Lord; for if thou do not, thou wilt not have conveyed His message at all. Allah will safeguard thee against harm by people. Allah guides not the disbelieving people" [5 (Al-Mā'idah) : 68]

It becomes crystal clear from this verse that there is no compulsion or force from the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

وَأَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ فَإِنْ تَوَلَّيْتُمْ فَإِنَّمَا عَلَى رَسُولِنَا
الْبَلَاغُ الْمُبِينُ

"Obey Allah and obey the Messenger and beware! But if you turn away, then remember that the duty of our Messenger is only conveyance (of the message) plainly. [64 (Al-Taghābun) : 13]

قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ قَدْ جَاءَكُمُ الْحَقُّ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ فَمَنِ اهْتَدَى فَإِنَّمَا
يَهْتَدِي لِنَفْسِهِ وَمَنْ ضَلَّ فَإِنَّمَا يَضِلُّ عَلَيْهَا وَمَا أَنَا عَلَيْكُمْ
بِوَكِيلٍ

Say: O ye people, the truth has indeed come to you from your Lord. Then whoso follows the guidance follows it only for the good of his own self, and whoso errs does so only to his own detriment. I am not appointed a keeper over you." [10 (Yūnus) :109]

Summing up, the Qur'ān has the following magnificent verse about the spiritual decline of Muslims due to abandoning the Qur'ān:

وَقَالَ الرَّسُولُ يَا رَبِّ إِنَّ قَوْمِي اتَّخَذُوا هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ مَهْجُورًا

"The Messenger will say: O My Lord, my people indeed treated this Qur'ān as a thing abandoned." [25 (Al-Furqān) : 31]

The principles that will resolve controversies about the contradictions between the Qur'ān and the Aḥādīth would be that the Word of God, the Qur'ān, stands supreme, followed by the actual practices of the Holy Prophet (known as sunnah), and this is followed by Aḥādīths, the words reported to be those of the Prophet.

To conclude it is obvious that due to the conduct and deeds of Muslims and other non-believers there is an urgent need for a reformer to come and remind and rehearse God's commandments to mankind as mentioned. Prophet Mohammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) has also prophesized about the advent of Messiah and Mahdi who will defend and rejuvenate the true and original teachings of Islam. That promised one did come in the person of Ḥaḍrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian (India). Ḥaḍrat Mirza Sahib claimed and informed the entire world that God communicates with him and has appointed him as the Promised Messiah and Mahdi for this age. He established, once again, that God is a living God who listens to human being's prayers, and that Islam is a living religion and Prophet Mohammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is the greatest of all prophets and is a mercy for mankind. He wrote eighty books on the defense and revival of Islam. He established Khilafat and Ahmadiyya Muslim community whose members follow the true teachings of Islam, worship Allah (God) humbly and serve mankind in over 120 countries to please Allah. This community practices and preaches Islam which is a religion of peace, tolerance and goodwill to all mankind. The present Khalīfa, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, being the 5th Khalīfa, by the Grace of God, travels to different countries to convey the peaceful message of Islam, manages and administers mission houses in over 120 countries, and provides moral and spiritual guidance and training according to the teaching of the Qur'ān and the great exemplary and pious life of Prophet Mohammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and the Promised messiah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) prophesized that Ahmadiyya Muslim community shall flourish and progress throughout the world and it is, Al-Hamdu Lillah. Let me end with a beautiful Persian couplet of Promised Messiah:

لوائے ما پنہ ہر سعید خواہد بود
ندائے فتح نمایاں بنام ما باشد

Every lucky person shall be protected under my flag, and the announcement of the clear victory of Islam shall come under my name).

Premarital Counseling

Department of Rishta Nāṭa (www.Rishtanata.us)

I am pleased to remind our members that under the directions of our beloved Imam (aba), the department of Rishta Nāṭa is active in offering Premarital Counseling (PMC).

The following are the members of the PMC team:

National Secretary: Dr. Farooq Ahmad Padder

Assistant National Secretary (PMC): Dr. B.K. Ahmad (Detroit, MI)

Coordinators: Dr. Atif Zeeshan (Laurel, MD), Shahma Malik (Laurel, MD)

Male Members:

1. Atif Ijaz (Zion, IL)
2. Imam Azam Akram (Chicago, IL)
3. Dr. Mansoor Qureshi (Detroit, MI)
4. Naser Noor (Inland Empire, CA)
5. Nasirullah Ahmad (Milwaukee, WI)
6. Nazir Ayaz (Queens, NY)
7. Rasheed Reno (Seattle, WA)
8. Dr. Wajeeh Bajwa (Orlando, FL)
9. Wasim Malik (Silicon Valley, CA)

Lajna Members:

1. Dr. Aziza Rahman (LA East, CA)
2. Amatul Jamil Khan (Iowa)
3. Bushra Latif (Zion, IL)
4. Bushra Salam Bajwa (Orlando, FL)
5. Fauzia Qureshi (Detroit, MI)
6. Hena Malik (Silicon Valley, CA)
7. Homaira Khandakar (Central Jersey, NJ)
8. Saleha Qureshi (Hartford, CT)
9. Samina Ijaz (Zion, IL)

While the process is being fine-tuned, some important points are given below

1. The PMC can be offered in person (face to face) wherever feasible or via the video-conferencing over the web (Webex or Skype).
2. Each session is expected to last up to two hours.
3. The parents from both sides are encouraged to attend the first half of the session; the second half is dedicated to the bride and groom only.
4. The PMC Request Form is available on www.Rishtanata.us under Marital Counseling tab. Alternatively, the request can be made by emailing to PMC@Rishtanata.us
5. For any questions, please contact PMC@Rishtanata.us

The prospective couples and their families are highly encouraged to benefit from this service.

Members are also requested to kindly pray that Allah, the Almighty, may bless these humble efforts.

Dr. Farooq Ahmad Padder, National Secretary, Department of Rishta Nāṭa, USA

Attention Moosees

SCHEDULE C FORM SUBMISSION FY 2014-15

Mūsīs are requested to give back their completed Schedule C forms for financial year 2014-15 to respective Waṣāyā Secretaries* without delay. Financial statements of Moosies were earlier sent to respective local Jamā'at Waṣāyā Secretaries in the first week of August 2015 for immediate delivery to Moosees. In case you have still not received your statement, please contact your local Waṣāyā Secretary (or President) immediately.

Please remember that submission of Schedule C form annually is Moosee's personal responsibility. Per Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya's Wasiyyat Rule 69, "It shall be obligatory for every Moosie to submit to the office at the end of every year a declaration as set out in Schedule C in respect of his/her payments toward Hissa Amad. In case such a declaration is not received the matter will be put for consideration before Majlis Karpardaz."

Do not send your completed Schedule C form directly either to National Waṣāyā office or to Markaz.

Note: Schedule C form can be downloaded by using the following web link.

http://www.ahmadiyya.us/departments/wasiyyat

* In local Jamā'ats without an elected Waṣāyā Secretary, the local Jamā'at President, by default, shall assume duties of Waṣāyā Secretary.

National Waṣāyā Secretary

USA Jamā'at

30th West Coast

Jalsa Salana USA

December 25, 26 and 27, 2015



Baitul-Hameed Mosque: 11941 Ramona Avenue Chino, CA 91710

1-909-627-2252

Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him):

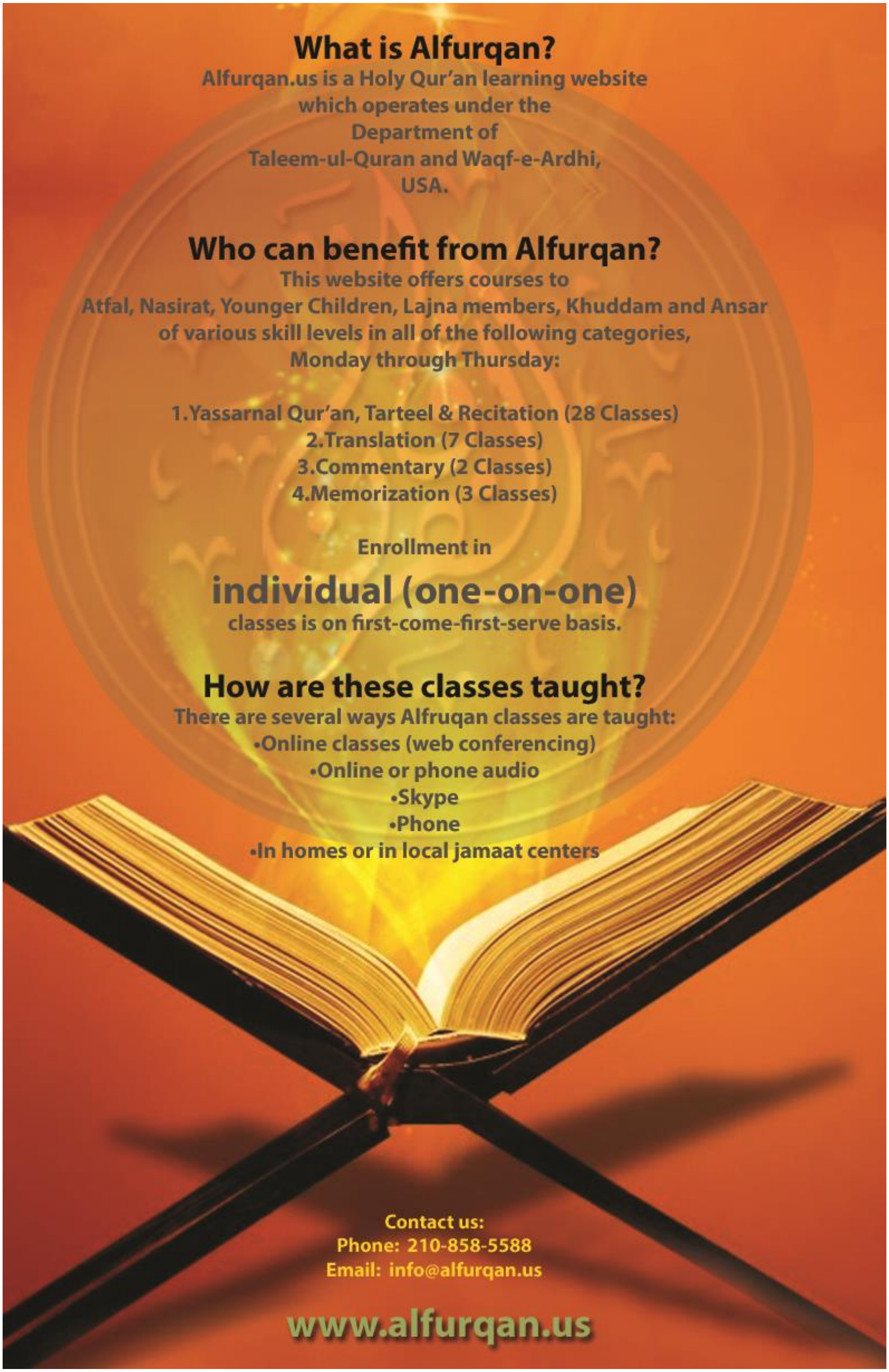
It is essential for all those who can afford to undertake the journey, that they must come to attend this convention which embodies many blessed objectives. They should disregard minor inconveniences in the cause of Allah and His prophet (peace be upon him). Allah yields reward to the sincere persons at every step of their way, and no labor and hardship, undertaken in His way, ever goes to waste. I re-emphasize that you must not rank this convention in the same league as other, ordinary, human assemblies. This is a phenomenon that is based purely on the Divine help, for propagation of Islam." (Ishtihar 7 Dec. 1892, Majmū'a Ishtiharāt, Vol. I, Page 341)

Please come and join us for these blessed days of Jalsa

http://www.amazon.com/shops/ahmadiyya

Buy and review books

Mohammad Ahmed Nasir, Incharge Ahmadiyya Bookstore USA


What is Alfurqan?
Alfurqan.us is a Holy Qur'an learning website which operates under the Department of Taleem-ul-Quran and Waqf-e-Ardhi, USA.
Who can benefit from Alfurqan?
This website offers courses to Atfal, Nasirat, Younger Children, Lajna members, Khuddam and Ansar of various skill levels in all of the following categories, Monday through Thursday:
1.Yassarnal Qur'an, Tarteel & Recitation (28 Classes)
2.Translation (7 Classes)
3.Commentary (2 Classes)
4.Memorization (3 Classes)
Enrollment in
individual (one-on-one)
classes is on first-come-first-serve basis.
How are these classes taught?
There are several ways Alfruqan classes are taught:
•Online classes (web conferencing)
•Online or phone audio
•Skype
•Phone
•In homes or in local jamaat centers
Contact us:
Phone: 210-858-5588
Email: info@alfurqan.us
www.alfurqan.us

NATIONAL CALENDAR 2016

3 January Sun	Review of 2015 Activities & Plan for 2016 Activities	Jamā'at	Local
10 January Sun	Muslims for Peace	Jamā'at	Regional/Local
17 January Sun	Taḥrīk-e-Jadīd Day Jalsa & Exhibition	Jamā'at	National
22-31 January Fri-Sun	Taḥrīk-e-Jadīd Pledge Taking 'Ashra	Jamā'at	National
23-24 January Sat-Sun	Parent-Murrabi Atfal Conference	Khuddām	National
24 January Sun	Seeratun-Nabi Day	Jamā'at	National
30-31 January Sat-Sun	Majlis-e-Sehat Event	Jamā'at	National
6 February Sat	National Amila Meeting	Jamā'at	National
12-14 February Fri-Sun	Anṣārullah Leadership Conference	Anṣār	National
14 February Sun	Musleh Mau'ūd Day	Jamā'at	Regional/Local
20-21 February Sat-Sun	In-Person MKA National Amila	Khuddām	National
26-27 Feb Fri-Sat	National PA Seminar	Jamā'at	National
27-28 February Sat-Sun	Majlis-e-Sehat Event	Jamā'at	National
12 March Sat	National Amila Meeting	Jamā'at	National
18-20 March Fri-Sun	Lajna Mentoring Conference	Lajna	National
27 March Sun	Masīḥ Mau'ūd Day	Jamā'at	Regional/Local
8-10 April Fri-Sun	Waqf-e-Nau Boys Trip to Jamia	Jamā'at	National
9-10 April Sat-Sun	East Coast Qur'ān Conference	Jamā'at	East Coast
16-17 April Sat-Sun	Local Qur'ān Conference	Jamā'at	National
22 -24 April Fri-Sun	National Majlis-e-Shura	Jamā'at	National
30 April-3 May Sat-Tue	MKA National Ijtema (Yosemite Park)	Khuddām	National
14-15 May Sat-Sun	Humanity First Awareness Day	Jamā'at	National
15 May Sun	All Scholarship Applications Due	Jamā'at	National
13-20 May Fri-Fri	Atfal Tarbiyat Week	Khuddām	National
22 May Sun	Khilafat Day	Jamā'at	Regional/Local
27-29 May Fri-Sun	AMMA Meeting (Medical Association) Smokey Mountains, TN		
6 June to 5 July Mon-Tue	Ramaḍān		
26 June Sun	Education Day Program	Jamā'at	Regional/Local
4 July Mon	Muslims for Loyalty	Jamā'at	National
6 July Wed	Eid–ul-Fitr		
9 July Sat	National Amila Meeting	Jamā'at	National
13-17 July Wed-Sun	National Atfal Ijtema and Rally	Khuddām	National
15-17 July Fri-Sun	Spiritual Fitness	Jamā'at	National
15-22 July Fri-Fri	National Waqifaat-e-Nau Camp	Jamā'at	National
22-28 July Fri-Thu	Waqf-e-Nau Boys Jamia Orientation	Jamā'at	National
29-31 July Fri-Sun	JALSA SALĀNA USA		
31 July – 13 August Sun-Sat	Hifz Class	Jamā'at	National
7 August Sun	Education Day Program	Jamā'at	Regional/Local
12-14 August Fri- Sun	JALSA SALĀNA UK		
19-21 August Fri-Sun	Spiritual Fitness	Jamā'at	National
28 August Sun	Taḥrīk-e-Jadīd Day Jalsa&Exhibition	Jamā'at	National
2-4 September Fri-Sun	JALSA SALĀNA GERMANY		
3-5 September Sat-Mon	T20 Cricket Tournament (Willingboro)	Khuddām	National
12 September Mon	Eid-ul-Aḍḥā		
16-18 September Fri-Sun	MKA National Shura (Silver Spring)	Khuddām	National
23-25 September Fri-Sun	Anṣārullah Ijtima	Anṣār	National
23-30 September Fri-Fri	Taḥrīk-e-Jadīd Ashra Wasuli	Jamā'at	National
24 September Sat	National Amila Meeting	Jamā'at	National
24-25 September Sat-Sun	MKA Walk-a-thons (Various Majlis)	Khuddām	National
30 September-2 October Fri-Sun	Lajna East Coast Ijtema	Lajna	National
7-9 October Fri-Sun	JALSA SALĀNA CANADA		
15-16 October Sat-Sun	Masroor Int. Sports (MIST) Basketball Soccer Tournament	Khuddām	National
21-23 October Fri-Sun	Lajna Majlis-e-Shura	Jamā'at	National
29-30 October Sat-Sun	Local Qur'ān Conference	Jamā'at	National
6 November Sun	Religious Founders Day	Jamā'at	Regional/Local
12-13 November Sat-Sun	MKA, Fazl-e-Umar Qaideen Conf	Khuddām	National
18-20 November Fri-Sun	Miami International Bookfair	Jamā'at	National
26 November Sat	Humanity First 4th National Telethon	Jamā'at	National
2 December Fri	National Amila Meeting	Jamā'at	National
3-4 December Sat-Sun	Presidents Refresher Course	Jamā'at	National
11 December Sun	Seerat-un-Nabi Day	Jamā'at	Regional/Local
23-25 December Fri-Sun	West Coast Jalsa Salāna		

We are Not Safe or Secure Unless and Until...

Waseem A. Sayed, National Secretary Waqf-e-Jadīd

I would like every earning member of the Jamā'at to try and make such sacrifices for the Blessed Waqf-e-Jadīd Scheme as cause them some pain and suffering that would demonstrate not only to them, but also, to their children, that it is OUR FAITH that is OUR UPPERMOST CONCERN ... uppermost even than our own selves and our children and their and our comfort and clothing, transport, books and education or even hunger and thirst.

This was the case of Ḥaḍrat Maulawī Nūr-ud-Dīn (may Allah be pleased with him).

Look at what the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) said about him in Nishaan-i-Aasmaanee (the Divine Sign, p. 47):

Hakeem Noor-ud-Deen in his sincerity, in his love, in his generosity and in his courage for the service of Islam has no peers. It is often seen that people do give something in the cause of Allah, but it is almost never seen that a man gives all that he has in the service of Islam, even goes to the extent of keeping himself hungry and thirsty, and such a quality and sacrifice is seen in Maulawī Sahib alone.

And what was the stance of this blessed man himself?

Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ I (may Allah be pleased with him) says:

وَ لَنَبۡلُوَنَّکُمۡ بِشَیۡءٍ مِّنَ الۡخَوۡفِ وَ الۡجُوۡعِ وَ نَقۡصٍ مِّنَ الۡاَمۡوَالِ وَ الۡاَنۡفُسِ وَ الثَّمَرٰتِ ؕ وَ بَشِّرِ الصّٰبِرِیۡنَ ﴿۱۵۶﴾

"...In order to receive Divine favors, it is necessary that one should go through fear. Fear of what? Fear of Allah? Fear of the enemy? Fear of the apostasy of some foolish people with weak faith? But this will not be enough. The fact is that this is a prophecy. Allah Almighty says: 'I shall test you with fear and hunger and loss of property and lives and fruit' [2:156]. Hunger also comes from fasting, so this verse tells us to keep fasts or to spend so much by way of Ṣadaqa and charity that you reach the state of starvation. Spend so much out of your property that it should become less, and also spend your lives in His cause and similarly your harvests."

We must not fail to recognize that UNLESS and UNTIL we demonstrate SUCH attachment to the FAITH, our children will not understand.

If they see us attend to their every material need, and attend to our own every material need, but see us just brush off any NEED of the FAITH when it is presented, by giving a small amount that does not change or affect our own lifestyle in any way, shape or form; so that we do not have to give up things to accommodate the NEEDS OF THE FAITH, the children get the idea that the things to do with the FAITH are just for Fridays or for Jalsa Salāna speeches and only for showing false emotions but that the real things have to do with us and our worldly concerns.

I wish I knew how to emphasize this enough. When we neglect the FAITH or attend to it as if it is just a cursory, superfluous thing we are attached to only because of our accidental birth into a set of circumstances, even if we are only doing so by providing for our and our children's legitimate material needs, we slowly, but surely, walk our children up a path that leads them away from God and into the hands of Satan—and I am sure we have all seen this so many times—and when they eventually find themselves in the inevitable difficulties that abandoning God results in, there is little to nothing that we can do. At that time wailing and crying is too late.

I have taken to writing these words because, as I travel around the country, I see this affecting so many of us and so many more of our next generation. All the problems of alcohol, drugs, immoral conduct, perverse and unchaste behaviours that so afflict the modern day society are penetrating ourselves and more so our children's lives.

There are many other remedies—education, lectures, counselling, after school sports, etc.,— that are being attempted and indeed must be carried out BUT this spirit of belonging to the Jamā'at in us, THE ELDERS, has to be demonstrated if any of those other remedies will have any chance of succeeding.

We have to understand and act on these things. We have to push ourelves into the furnace of sacrifices. This alone will make our material and spiritual lives full of happiness and success and progress. These sacrifices have not just to do with financial sacrifices, but also require sacrifice of our time and abilities and honor and ego. We have to submit to the directives of our Khalīfa. We have to make time to listen to his Khutbas. We have to suffer indignities for the sake of our faith, if need be. We have to let go of our ego when we are told to do things that may appear too menial and demeaning for our newly blessed status due to riches and honorable positions in our companies and society.

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says:

صدق سے میری طرف آؤ اسی میں خیر ہے

ہیں درندے ہر طرف مَیں عافیت کا ہوں حصار

Ṣidq sai mairī ṭaraf ā'o isī maiñ khair hai,

Come to me with full sincerity and truth, in this alone lies your welfare. IN THIS ALONE, he says. And only if you do it with SINCERITY and TRUTHFULLY and not if you half-heartedly and pretending to attach yourself with him.

Then he goes on to say: Haiñ dariñdai har ṭaraf maiñ āfiyat kā hooñ ḥiṣār. He says, There are wild beasts of the jungle everywhere else, I ALONE am the fortress that affords peace and security. In this age, he says, every other place you go to is full of danger and there are wild beasts waiting there to tear you and your children apart. Attaching ourselves with him alone in full sincerity and honesty will take us into the fort that affords peace and security in this age.

We are not safe, neither you, nor I, nor our children if we are not attached to the Imam of the Age truthfully and sincerely and this means making the FAITH our TOPMOST concern and our attachment with him such as no other worldly attachment that we have.

Huzur Aqdas (may Allah Help him with His Mighty assistance) has been reminding us of this very thing again and again. Let us make such sacrifices for the Blessed Waqf-e-Jadīd Scheme as demonstrate to our children that for us, every concern, other than the concern of the faith, and its needs, is meaningless.

We have to feel the pain for our faith as the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) felt it. If we look at the state of Islam and the Muslims today, is there any doubt that there is no one else other than this JAMĀ'AT of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) to defend it and to struggle for the reformation of the Muslims.

So I again ask that every member of the Jamā'at review his or her level of sacrifice for the Blessed Waqf-e-Jadīd Scheme and make much greater sacrifice.

And please keep praying for this work and for the welfare, spiritual and material, of all members of the Jamā'at. Jazakumullāhu Aḥsanal-Jazā.

On Twitter: @WJ_USA

Visiting Our Mosques Often

Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V, may Allah strengthen him with His mighty power, said in his 8th May 2015 Khutba Jum'a:

جب تک تم مسجدوں کو آباد رکھوگے اس وقت تک تم بھی آباد رہوگے اور جب تم مسجدوں کو چھوڑدوگے اس وقت خدا تعالیٰ تمہیں بھی چھوڑدے گا۔

As long as you will populate mosques, you will flourish (you will be successful in your all affairs) and when you will stop coming to mosques and will not pay attention to populate Houses of Allah, Allah will stop helping you (He will leave you too).

(Contrinuted by Imam Shamshad Ahmad Nasir.)

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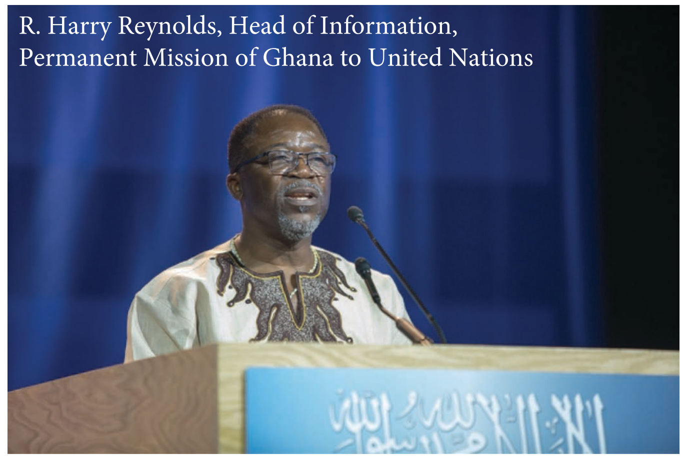
The Aḥmadiyya Gazette/Al-Nūr and Al-Hilāl

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